

Peres seeks direct talks to counter Husain peace plan

Israel's Prime Minister countered King Husain's peace plan with one of his own... calling for the support of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council...

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday countered King Husain of Jordan's recent Middle East peace moves with a new initiative designed to lead to a peace conference within three months.

He criticized, in a policy statement to the Knesset in Jerusalem, the proposals recently put forward by the King when he visited Washington. They envisaged, he said, a series of meetings between Jordanians, Palestinians and Americans to prepare for an international conference.

Instead, Mr Peres said, Israel was proposing direct negotiations, without preconditions, under conditions of equality and between parties interested in peace rather than sides that are interested in the continuation of the conflict.

He presented the Knesset with a proposed timetable involving five stages. In the first, the United States should continue its informal discussions with Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinians who are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, with which Israel refuses to talk.

A committee comprising only Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli members would then prepare an agenda for a conference, with the United States taking part.

Instead of the international conference by King Husain, which would include the Soviet Union, Mr Peres called for the enlistment of the support of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for direct negotiations between Jordan and a Palestinian delegation and the Israelis, without pre-committing themselves to support the stand of one of the sides.

The Palestinian representatives, according to his proposal, would be "authentic Palestinian representatives from the (Israeli-occupied) territories who will represent the stand of the inhabitants and will be acceptable to all the sides."

Although Mr Peres still rejects an international conference as such, it is understood that King Husain, has presented the conference only as a way of giving international legitimacy to the proposed talks. The gap between Jordanian and Israeli positions on procedure does not appear unbridgeable.

By stressing that Palestinian delegates must represent the inhabitants of the occupied territories, Mr Peres is clearly trying to head off any move by the US to support King Husain in bringing in the PLO.

But the view in London is that no authentic representative of the territories will be willing to take part unless the PLO gives a green light.



Claus von Bulow arriving at court with his daughter

Von Bulow trial ends in acquittal

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Claus von Bulow's long ordeal ended yesterday with his acquittal on charges that he had tried to murder his wealthy wife.

Mr von Bulow, aged 58, had waited since Friday while the jury at Providence, Rhode Island, considered the evidence presented during the six weeks of his second trial.

At a news conference after yesterday's verdict, Mr von Bulow said he was relieved and grateful to his lawyers. He added that he had no hard feelings towards his two step-children who had accused him of attempting to kill their mother.

He said he would like to have given evidence himself, but added "this was conducted quite rightly as a medical case. There was no crime."

This was an echo of what he had said while the jury was still out: "I'm not up on a charge of adultery. They are not judging me on whether I was a nice fellow. They are judging me on whether there was a crime."

The prosecution said he had tried to kill Martha von Bulow so that he could marry his mistress, Alexandra Isles, and get his share of his wife's fortune.

Mrs von Bulow, known by her nick-name of Sunny, has been in an irreversible coma in a Manhattan hospital since December of 1980. The prosecution had contended that this coma, and a coma a year earlier, were caused by insulin.

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Squatter diplomat to leave flat

By Patricia Clough

The Syrian diplomat who has been occupying a London family's home in defiance of a court order bowed to a Foreign Office ultimatum yesterday and said that he would leave it by Friday.

Earlier the Foreign Office had said that it Mr Ahmed Walid Rajab, a counsellor for Arab League affairs, did not vacate the flat or settle the dispute with the owners by Friday he would be asked to leave the country.

"It seems he is fulfilling the requirements", a Foreign Office official said later. If that was so, there was now "no question" of him leaving.

Thus ended, after a 24-hour blaze of publicity, a three-year battle by Mr John Chaffey, a building engineer, and his wife, Suzanne, to regain their £85,000 flat in Stonor Road, Kensington, which they let to Mr Rajab in 1982 for six months.

Mr Chaffey said: "I am very relieved I can see the end in sight. At the end of the day we can only wish that this man had been kicked out of the country."

The battle, the couple said, cost them and their children untold mental suffering, the family had to live separately with three different sets of friends and had run up £30,000 in bills. Now, in view of their debts, they did not know whether they would be able to live in the flat.

The rapid solution followed the disclosure by Mrs Chaffey

Continued on back page, col 3

'Military secrets passed by blackmail ring'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

More than 1,300 highly classified documents were among sensitive information passed to foreign agents by a ring of homosexual British servicemen blackmailed into espionage on Cyprus, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Seven men, members of a "highly sensitive inter-service signals regiment, pleaded not guilty to 28 charges under the Official Secrets Act at the start of trial not expected to finish before the autumn.

Yesterday, after the third jury was sworn in Mr Michael Wright QC, for the prosecution, told them they were trying a case in which the seven "betrayed their country by systematically channelling to foreign agents a vast quantity of highly classified secret and top secret information."

Mr Wright said: "The damage caused by passing of such material to foreign agents is quite incalculable... most of the men in the dock chose to supply the secret material... on a grand scale - not just in snippets or bits and pieces but literally by the bagful. They did so in part at least to save their skins, rather than risk exposure as homosexuals."

Boredom may also have been a factor but the defendants, whatever the motive do not appear to have balked at supplying even the most sensitive information in vast quantities.

Senior Aircraftman Geoffrey Jones, who "almost single-handed formed this espionage ring and thereafter orchestrated its operations", admitted passing 200 top secret and 800 secret documents. SAC Adam Lightowler told investigators of passing 10 top secret papers and "hundreds" of secret papers.

Another defendant, Mr Wright said, spoke of several hundred secret papers and a fourth of passing 80 top secret ones.

Most of the defendants received rewards of money, drugs and sex. The country behind the spying was not clear. Mr Wright said.

Three agents were identified. One was an Arab known as "John", a second, "Alex", claimed to be a KGB major and a third was a Cypriot.

The ring began in early 1982 when Jones met "John" in a Larissa nightclub and was caught in a homosexual orgy in the man's flat. He was forced eventually to recruit other servicemen, which he did by organizing homosexual parties, and blackmailing the participants.

Senior Aircraftman Jones, Lightowler and Christopher Payne had been taking part in homosexual parties in Jones's barracks room.

Investigators unravelled the ring, Mr Wright said, after Jones became infatuated with a Filipino club singer and was due to return to Britain.

He failed to carry out several security procedures before leaving and his liaison with the girl was discovered. Other details emerged early in 1984.

Mr Justice Stocker granted Mr Wright's request to continue his opening speech in camera today because national security was involved.

Report, page 3

Cheaper technology boost for cable TV

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Multi-channel television should flourish throughout Britain over the next two years as cable network companies switch to cheaper satellite reception to revive their industry's flagging fortunes.

The Cable Authority, which regulates an industry dogged by financial problems and slow growth, is to allow companies which win franchises to install small satellite systems, instead of conventional technology.

The decision could provide a crucial boost to many of the 11 pilot cable companies which were meant to herald a revolution in British television.

Satellite technology, known as SMATV (Satellite Master Antenna Television), uses cheap dish aerials and cables to provide services to viewers. Many blocks of flats and small housing estates can be put on air almost immediately using the system, which does not require conventional and expensive cable-laying.

SMATV was not envisaged as an alternative to cable, Mr Davey said. "The people who have put forward this idea have emphasized it is a short-term experience."

Mr Peter Gray, managing director of Satellite TV Antenna Systems of Staines, Middlesex, a leading British SMATV equipment manufacturer, said yesterday that he was in discussion with two of the 11 pilot cable networks about providing services via satellite. He refused to name the companies.

Mr Jon Davey, director general of the Cable Authority, said that the authority had issued guidance notes to companies with cable franchises, saying that SMATV would be allowed as an interim measure.

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1,800 pit jobs to go in Wales

At least 1,800 jobs are likely to be lost in the South Wales coalfield on top of the 2,000 at four collieries which are to be run down.

The coal board announcement brings the total number of jobs to go in the next two years to at least 18,000.

Narrow Lords' vote on GLC

The Government's majority fell to one in the Lords yesterday, the first day of the report stage of the Local Government Bill abolishing the GLC and the six metropolitan counties.

Parliament, page 4

Mexican visitor

President de la Madrid of Mexico who starts his state visit to Britain today intends to seek more trade and increased British investment.

Pages 5, 12

Actor dies

Clifford Evans, the actor, who performed in English and Welsh and lived at Cloddiau, Powys, died in hospital on Sunday at the age of 73.

Judge accuses

Lord Devlin, the retired Lord of Appeal, who tried the Dr Bodkin Adams murder case, tells The Times today that Adams was guilty.

Walesa plea

Mr Lech Walesa urged a Polish court to release three Solidarity colleagues and said they were not part of a secret plot to spread strikes.

22 years' jail

Two ringleaders of the gang involved in the £6 million Security Express raid, Britain's biggest cash robbery, were each jailed for 22 years.

Francisco fined

Silvino Francisco, a leading professional snooker player from South Africa, was fined a record £6,000 for bringing the game into disrepute.

Leader page, 13

Letters on pensions, from Mr T. S. McLeod; famine, from Dr Francis D'Souza.

Leading articles: Omega file; Mexican visit; Ottawa secrecy; Obituary, page 14.

Professor John Spink, Professor Louis Robert.

Computer Horizons, pages 21-23.

Banking on security; Labour's hi-tech answer; Racing for Europe's telecommunications; American money boosts UK robotics; Slump bites into Apple Features, pages 10-12.

Problems of unemployment and training; The challenge to Mexico's troubled government; Thoughts on Father's Day; David Steel on council abolition; Lord Devlin's new book; Racing skills, pages 26-28.

Legal Appointments

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Court, Diary, Law Report, Parliament, From Books, Sale Items, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Universities, Weather, Wills.

Israeli settlement hit by rockets

From Christopher Walker, Shomara, western Galilee

The grim realities of life in northern Israel three years after the invasion of Lebanon returned to this border settlement just before 8am yesterday when two Katyusha rockets thudded into orchards close to a school where 140 pupils were about to begin lessons.

The rockets were the first to hit western Galilee since the start of the Lebanon war in 1982. The case with which they were fired came as a shock to the Israeli authorities, who sought to emphasize that they had caused neither casualties nor damage.

"There was a lot of panic as we struggled to get the children down into the shelters," said Mr Meir Peretz, the shaken-looking janitor. "The younger ones were the most frightened. They kept asking how we are going to live now that the rockets have come back again."

In Beirut two guerrilla groups, one Lebanese and one Palestinian, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Coming only hours before the completion of its re-deployment to the international border, the attack was designed to cause maximum psychological and symbolic damage at a time when the value of the war is the subject of bitter internal debate.

Despite the announcement of the withdrawal, Israeli units supported by helicopter gunships, were back in operation inside the "security zone" in southern Lebanon, searching for the attackers.

The chief architect of the Lebanon war, Mr Ariel Sharon, now Minister of Trade, claimed that the attack could have been prevented if his proposal for an Israeli-controlled zone stretching 25 miles north of the border had been accepted by the Cabinet.

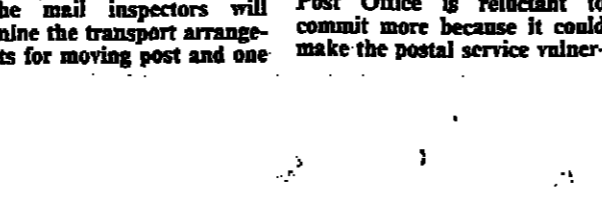
Instead, the Government settled for a shallower zone. After yesterday's attack, a civilian alert was ordered in some other settlements in anticipation of similar barrages.

Across the border, militiamen from the "south Lebanon army", with Israeli advisers, them must have done a large batch. Certainly hundreds, possibly thousands.

Tickets are allocated by ballot through the official agents, Keith Prowse, early in the year. It is, however, quite legal to sell them on. Anyone doubting the origin of tickets need not fear prosecution, since it is not illegal to receive the forgeries.

The forgeries have been for centre court seats, which range from £7 for the first days to £17 for men's final day. The police, however, who are working on ways of quickly detecting the forgeries, say that others may be for No 1 court seats, which range from £6 to £11.

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Alert over forged Wimbledon tickets

By Colin Hughes

Thousands of would-be Wimbledon tennis spectators who believe they hold prime court tickets may be disappointed, after the discovery of high-quality forgeries, it was disclosed yesterday.

Officials of the All-England Club, which runs Wimbledon, met senior police officers and detectives to find ways of protecting the public from the frustration of buying forged tickets, and have set up a special "hotline" for tennis fans who fear they may have been sold fakes.

Police are particularly concerned because the Wimbledon forgery find comes after similar professionally-executed forgeries for big sporting events this year, notably the Paris Open tennis tournament, Ascot, and the England versus Wales rugby match at Twickenham.

The All-England Club said: "We have had problems with forgeries in previous years, but they have usually been rough and ready, and easily identifiable. Although these forgeries can be detected by several small differences in the printing, and anyone trying to use them would be unable to get in, they are much better than we have seen in the past."

Wimbledon police said: "They are such good reproductions that whoever has done them must have done a large batch. Certainly hundreds, possibly thousands."

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Hotline number, back page

Telegraph stake buyer

Mr Conrad Black, a multi-millionaire from Toronto, is buying a 14 per cent stake in the Daily Telegraph for an undisclosed sum. He will become a director of the company.

Mr Black is the chairman of Ravelston, a company with interests in mining and industry. Aged 38, he will be the youngest member of the Telegraph board.

Mr Black is providing the vital element in the Telegraph's plans to raise £110 million of new funds and finance a move to new plant in London's docklands and in Manchester.

Mr Hugh Lawson, deputy managing director of the Daily Telegraph, said last night: "Mr Black's company does not have newspaper interests, but he is an Anglophile and likes the Daily Telegraph."

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Post Office 'watchdogs' in drive for efficiency

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office is recruiting a team of "watchdogs", many from outside the corporation and possibly including some school leavers, to examine its operations and identify inefficiencies.

A temporary team of 40 staff is already working in various parts of the country, concentrating particularly on the corporation's overnight operations, but the Post Office wants a permanent group of at least 50 people to carry on the work.

The mail inspectors will examine the transport arrangements for moving post and one possible outcome of the exercise, according to the Post Office, is that 75 per cent of the mail carried by British Rail could be reduced.

Sir Ronald Dearing, the corporation chairman, said yesterday inspectors would examine scheduling of trains, staffing on railway platforms at night, and sorting both inside sorting offices and on trains. They would question whether the Post Office should make greater use of road and air transport.

About 12 per cent of inland mail is moved by air, but the Post Office is reluctant to commit more because it could make the postal service vulner-

able to the vagaries of the weather.

Mr Bill Colburn, the Post Office board member for mail services, said the aim of the scrutiny operation was to achieve 90 per cent next-day delivery for first class mail, and 96 per cent of second class mail delivered within three days.

He said 18 people were already being trained for the permanent team of inspectors and external advertising for the remaining 38 posts, which pay up to £12,000 a year, had produced 500 applications. The Post Office was looking for a wide range of people to take on the work, including graduates

straight from university and possibly school-leavers.

Mr Colburn said the aim was to improve efficiency not to have a squad of people touring the country looking for "sifters".

Sir Ronald said British Rail knew it did not carry mail as of right and if the Post Office found more efficient ways of transporting letters and parcels around the country, it would not hesitate to use them.

He indicated that letter charges will rise later in the year, but said that the corporation was hoping to keep its promise to restrict increases to no more than the rate of inflation.

BOS BUSINESS OPERATING SOFTWARE Computer Software Manufacturers to the better household names. Includes list of partner companies like BP International, British Aerospace plc, GEBB, etc.

Threat to 1,800 more pit jobs in Wales review

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board yesterday outlined its plans for the South Wales coalfield and indicated that at least 1,800 jobs are likely to disappear on top of 2,000 at four collieries already identified to be run down.

Unlike other areas which have during the past six weeks disclosed their plans, the board's area managers gave the unions no specific details but instead agreed to a joint review of the future of the area's biggest loss-making pits.

National Union of Mine-workers' officials leaving a meeting yesterday with board officials said they believed about 1,800 jobs would go, but some industry sources suggested that could be a conservative estimate.

The board has already announced the closure of Bedwas and St Johns collieries, the merger of Maerdy, the last remaining centre of coal production in the Rhondda, with Tower pit and the likely closure of Celynen south because of lack of reserves. About 2,000 jobs will be lost in that programme.

Board officials refused to name the pits that will be considered for closure in the joint review, but the large loss makers in recent years have included Penrhyber, near Aberdare, Trefor, near Neath, and Markham, near Blackwood.

Mr Philip Weekes, director of the South Wales coalfield, said that the "special action" required to identify difficulties in the area would produce sound long-term prospects if the issues were approached jointly.

South Wales was the last of the board areas to announce the results of its post-strike review

Workforce will fall by 18,000

By Rupert Morris

The latest announcement by the National Coal Board of job losses in south Wales brings the total number of jobs to go nationally over the next two years to at least 18,000.

These come on top of at least 12,000 miners who left the industry during the strike, and make the original announcement of 20,000 job losses, which started the strike, seem relatively modest.

In Scotland and the North-east, for instance, the number of job losses required at the beginning of the strike was almost exactly met by miners who left during the strike, convinced, in spite of their leaders' urgings, that they had no future in mining.

By 1987, Yorkshire's workforce seems certain to have been reduced from 54,000 before the strike to fewer than 42,000. The 820 men at Cortonwood where the strike began, will lose their jobs by the end of the year, unless the colliery review procedure comes up with something unexpected.

Britain's total mining workforce will have declined from 200,000 in March 1984 to about 170,000 in March 1987.

The table is based on the latest coal board review. The figures have not yet been collated nationally and are, therefore, approximate.

	JOB LOSSES	
	Planned	During Strike
North-east	2,600	2,500
Yorkshire	2,500	3,000
Doncaster	3,000	
Burnley	1,000	
North Yorks	2,800	
South Yorks	2,800	
S Wales	1,800	
	under threat	
Kent	700	more losses possible
Scotland	900	2,100
Midlands	900	4,500
Net wastage		
Total	18,200	12,100



Rock stars gather at Wembley Stadium, in London, after the announcement that Band Aid is to stage two vast concerts to raise cash for the Ethiopian famine appeal. Photographed from left to right are Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet), Midge Ure (Ultravox), Gary Kemp (Spandau Ballet), Adam Ant, Bob Geldof and Elton John. Bob Geldof, Band Aid's leader, said the concerts would be staged at Wembley Stadium and the John F. Kennedy stadium in Philadelphia on July 13 and would be broadcast live on BBC television and Radio 1.

Jail threat to judge over unpaid fine

Deputy High Court judge Vivian Price was warned by Guildhall magistrates yesterday that he would go to prison for three months if he did not pay an outstanding fine within 14 days.

Price, aged 59, had reported earlier in the day at a City of London police station after a he had paid into court bounced. He appeared on a warrant issued for his arrest for non-payment.

The court was told that he did not arrive on March 12 for a hearing about his failure to pay value-added tax, and in his absence was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £50 costs.

Price, who gave address as New Court, Temple, London, said: "I signed the cheque thinking I had plenty of pounds in my account to meet it. I am admitted having four previous convictions for similar offences."

Financier beaten outside court

Mr Alex Herbage, an international financier, said yesterday that he had won the lifting of High Court orders preventing him dealing with assets in The Netherlands of his Caprimex commodity investment company after judgments totalling £6 million obtained in Dutch courts by creditors.

As Mr Herbage, aged 54 who weighs 32 stone, left the Law Courts he was punched and kicked to the ground by two men. He reported the incident to Bow Street police station.

Ethiopians wait over asylum

Six Ethiopian stowaways found on a cargo ship when it docked in Londonderry are still waiting to be told whether they can stay in the United Kingdom.

The men, aged between 19 and 38, have applied for political asylum. The Home Office said last night that their case was being considered, but no decision would be made before today.

Frenchman fined over death crash

A French driver whose lorry jackknifed into a coach, killing three people and injuring 40, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £50 costs yesterday.

Norfolk, England, Marcel Serge Dotal, aged 38, of Caudry, north-east France, admitted careless driving.

Blacks plan rejected by Labour

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Labour's organization committee yesterday rejected by 12 votes to 14 a plan to set up constitutional black sections, after Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley had argued that separate black and Asian representation would create problems of definition and would be "deeply patronizing".

The plan had been proposed by a working party, after seven months of consultation which had produced a four-to-one constituency majority in favour of black sections as a means of enhancing black and Asian representation.

But the organization committee agreed that positive discrimination was needed to support "the aspirations of black and Asian British for an increasing role in the political life of this country."

The working party had called for an ethnic minority committee to be formed "to consider issues of concern to black people", joint policy committees to give black input; the employment of a full-time black official as party headquarters; and the introduction of ethnic monitoring in the party "to counter racism and promote positive action policies."

Home grants Bill deferred

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government has drawn back from early legislation on reorganization of home improvement grants, another issue on which it faced serious backbench opposition.

A Green Paper last month, pressed for hard by the Treasury, proposed that government policy would be changed to one in which responsibility for repairs would be placed firmly on owner-occupiers with assistance only for the poorest through a means test.

Conservative MPs voiced their alarm to ministers that the proposals, incorporated in the paper *Home Improvement - A New Approach*, appear to be solely an expenditure-saving exercise and risk depressing the building industry further.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, announced to the Housing Consultative Council yesterday that the consultation period on the Green Paper was being extended to September 30 from July 9. In effect there will be no Bill in the next parliamentary session beginning in the autumn, as Treasury ministers hoped.

There have been sharp differences among ministers and Mr Gow has resisted Treasury attempt to end improvement grants. In deciding not to go ahead with a Bill next session, ministers have also been swayed by a crowded legislative programme and that they can control expenditure on improvement grants by other means.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, said last night that the Green Paper was a mess and likely to result in a deterioration in the housing stock.

He hoped that the document would be rewritten.

Increased government spending on construction is one of the main prescriptions of many Conservative MPs and groups such as Centre Forward for stimulating employment.

The Cabinet decided last Thursday to delay legislation on ending of rent controls on new letting of private housing.

Union warns of gas strike

Strikes over privatization can be expected before Christmas in the gas industry, a union leader said yesterday (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Mr David Sturzaker, national gas officer of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, said the action would start with a 24-hour stoppage.

Mr Sturzaker, leader of 48,000 white-collar workers in the industry, said he was confident the union would win an industrial action ballot.

The call for action was made yesterday at a meeting of gas group delegates. The General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union has already taken a similar decision, and so the disruption would involve 104,000 employees, Mr Sturzaker said.

But he said that the disruption would not mean the ending of emergency services.

Delegates accepted a pay offer of between 2.5 per cent and 6.2 per cent. But colleagues in the water group rejected 5.4 per cent on basic wages.

MPs' warning on cuts in defence expenditure

The resources which the Government plans to make available for defence during the next few years will not be adequate to prevent a decline in Britain's defence capability.

This is the central conclusion of a report published yesterday by the House of Commons defence committee.

On the possibility of Britain becoming involved in the American Star Wars research programme, the committee says it understood from the comments of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, that his main interest in participating in the programme would be not so much to move closer to President Reagan's strategic defence vision, but to gain access to a wide range of technological developments which would have much wider application.

The committee gives a warning that should the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty collapse as a result of the Strategic Defence Initiative the credibility of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent might be called into question.

The report is likely to feature prominently in a two-day defence debate in the Commons tomorrow and on Thursday.

On the question of the adequacy of resources to meet Britain's defence commitments, the committee says that substantial pressures will develop on the defence budget in coming years, and that this will require some hard decision-making.

After seven years of rising defence spending, it is government policy that there should be no further growth in real terms after next March.

New Soviet embassy plans soon

Plans for a new Soviet embassy in West Kensington, west London, will soon be submitted to the Royal Fine Art Commission, it was disclosed last night.

The scheme was first disclosed in *The Times* during the visit to Britain last year of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Abuse of embassy buildings in London, many of which are listed, is an issue dealt with in the Commission's first report for 13 years, published yesterday.

The building of the East German Embassy in Belgrave Square and the demolition of the Chinese Embassy in Portland Place, opposite the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects, led to letters from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to foreign governments asking them to take proper care of their premises.

Royal Fine Art Commission, Twenty-second report, October 1971 - December 1984, (Command 9498, Stationery Office, £8.55).

Joseph willing to consider teaching council scheme

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, would be prepared to consider proposals for a General Teaching Council to police the profession, it confirmed yesterday (our Education Correspondent writes).

But the move would have to be subject to agreement from teachers' organizations and would have to be of benefit to pupils, parents and the public at large, Whitehall sources stated.

It is known that Sir Keith, unlike former secretaries of state, is lukewarm about a

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Militancy under attack

Britain's biggest Civil Service union has come under a stinging attack from its deputy general secretary who called for a "dramatic change of attitude" and strongly doubted that it could win anything by industrial action (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Mr John Ellis, of the 145,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association, said that the union had lost £1 million in its bitter battle over shift earnings at the social security offices in Newcastle and Washington last year.

Mr Ellis, writing in the union's newspaper, *Red Tape*, advocated an immediate switch away from traditional militancy towards a concentration on organizational strength, quality of representation and public campaigns.

His comments cast additional doubt on public sector unions' ability to mount a unified campaign of disruption next year in support of enhanced pay rises.

Union demands time off for peace activities

Leaders of the 496,000 members of Britain's local government union are to demand time off for peace activities on the same basis that members of the Territorial Army are awarded paid leave for "War Games" (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Negotiators for the National and Local Government Officers Association were yesterday instructed by their local authorities policy body to submit claims for time off for volunteers involved in "recognized" peace campaigns.

Proposing the motion, overwhelmingly passed by delegates, Mr Tom Hosey of Lambeth, south London, said: "We have war on the rates. We now ask for peace on the rates."

"If some Nalgo members have time off to prepare for war others should have time off to prepare for peace. Some members have already had paid leave for activities in such organisations as the Territorial Army. They are allowed time off for Nato war games and other activities."

Charity inquiry on group for missing children

The Charity Commissioners are investigating the International Find a Child organization, which has the father of Genette Tate as one of its leading members, Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, disclosed last night.

In a Commons written reply he said that he had asked for a copy of the report.

Concern about the role of Mr Tate, whose daughter is missing, has been expressed by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, MP for Littleworth and Saddleworth. In a Commons written question he had asked the Attorney General to "prosecute Mr John Tate for sex offences with his step daughter Tania, then aged under 12 years, between 1976 and 1978".

Sir Michael replied: "In November 1978 a report concerning such allegations, but relating to incidents alleged to have occurred in about 1974, was submitted by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who advised that proceedings should not be instituted. I am satisfied that the decision was correct."

Bradford 'never sought fire safety advice'

From Peter Davenport, Bradford

Bradford City Football Club never sought or received fire brigade advice on fire prevention at its Valley Parade ground, the public inquiry into the grandstand disaster was told yesterday.

And the fire service did not have the manpower necessary to carry out a programme of general safety checks at sports stadiums, although it had the power in law to take action in potentially dangerous situations.

Mr Peter Kneale, assistant chief officer of the West Yorkshire fire brigade and in charge of fire prevention operations, told the inquiry that the service had never received any request from the club to provide advice.

He also said that the fire brigade was not involved in any recommendations made by West Yorkshire County Council to the club under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 1975.

He said: "To my knowledge there was no request from Bradford City specifically directed to the fire service for advice of a fire prevention nature."

The only visit by the fire brigade had been to advise on precautions within the clubhouse and administrative building at Valley Parade.

Mr Kneale said that it was the fire brigade's normal practice to await a request before offering advice. However, in 1982 West Yorkshire County Council wrote to all football clubs in its area offering advice. Only one club accepted.

Mr Justice Popplewell, who is heading the inquiry into the fire, which claimed 56 lives, asked Mr Kneale if he was aware of powers available to the fire brigade under section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, and the Safety of Sports Grounds Act to take court action if it thought fire risks so great that premises should be closed to the public.

Mr Kneale said that the fire brigade did not have enough manpower to undertake a programme of general safety checks, and normally relied on a complaint before acting.

The inquiry continues today.

● The Bradford disaster appeal fund has now topped £2 million, organizers announced yesterday.

● The fire brigade has condemned Northampton Town Football Club's main stand as a fire hazard and says that work must be done at once if the stand is to be used next season. It reports that if the stand caught fire it could collapse in half the time it should.

● Chelsea Football Club will introduce computerized identity cards for fans as part of the

Church experts disagree on embryo status

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

An expert committee on the Church of England has failed to agree on the human status of embryos in their early stages, and therefore had to publish its report yesterday setting out both sides of the case.

It is to be debated in the General Synod of the Church of England next month, and there are likely to be attempts to resolve the fundamental question by moving amendments to it.

The report comes from the board for social responsibility, which acknowledged that opinion in the church is "deeply divided". A comment prepared by the board in response to the Warnock report was debated in the synod in February, and failed to gain majority support.

The present report was neither a response to the Warnock report nor to Mr Enoch Powell's parliamentary Bill banning experiments on embryos, which was talked out last Friday.

The committee did agree that the emergence of the "primitive streak" in a developing embryo, at about 14 days after fertilization, was the key point, and beyond that stage all members of the committee were agreed the embryo should have full rights attributed to it. The essential disagreement concerned the period before 14 days had elapsed.

The report is to be offered to the synod as an aid to

"informed and considered thought". The section of the synod which resisted the board's advice will have an opportunity to table resolutions asserting the absolute rights of an embryo from fertilization onwards.

The board's working party, under the chairmanship of Professor Robert Berry, summed up its disagreement by saying: "We are not able to agree on the status of the human embryo in its early development. One view holds that human life begins at conception, is a continuum and should be afforded the status and protection we give to all human beings..."

"The other view holds that we have a duty to judge when, in the development of human life, a particular life has reached a stage where it possesses the essential features of the full human being and therefore must be protected."

Those holding the latter view would "wish to be cautious" about offering full protection to an early embryo.

Personal Origins (CJO Publishing, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1T 2JQ).



The Transport Bill threatens to cancel the village bus-and cut off the countryside.
It is opposed by members of all major political parties, bus companies and manufacturers, Metropolitan, Shire and Local councils, Trade Unions, Friends of the Earth, Women's Institutes, and many others.
Public Transport Information Unit, 308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY.

'Signallers gave top secret papers to Russians after homosexual blackmail'

Seven British servicemen based in Cyprus were blackmailed into channelling to foreign agents hundreds of secret and top secret military documents after being lured into homosexual encounters, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Opening the prosecution case in a trial expected to last until the autumn, Mr Michael Wright, QC, said that the five airmen and two soldiers, members of the Nine Signals Regiment, were rewarded with money, cannabis and sexual favours.

British sovereign base area on the eastern end of the island. "Nine signals Regiment is very different from a conventional Army formation. For one thing it contains within its ranks both military and civilian personnel and members of the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

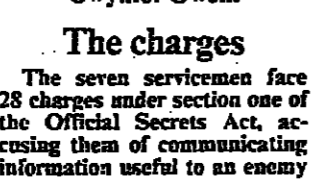
There seems to be no question of any ideological or political motivation," Mr Wright told the jury. "They acquired this information solely by reason of their employment within a highly sensitive military establishment set up in Cyprus for the purpose of handling such secrets.

Mr Wright said that in February 1982, Senior Aircraftman Geoffrey Jones was lured to an apartment, seduced and photographed by a foreign agent in acts of buggery, with two Arabs.

Accounts given by the defendants on their own admission, were shot through with prevarication, half-truths and outright lies, Mr Wright said.



Martin Tuffy (left) and Christopher Payne.



Anthony Glass (left) and Gwynfor Owen.

The charges

The seven servicemen face 28 charges under section one of the Official Secrets Act, accusing them of communicating information useful to an enemy between February 1982 and February last year.

Senior aircraftman Geoffrey Jones, aged 20, of Pontypool, Gwent; faces seven charges; Adam Lightowler, aged 21, of Newtown, Powys; faces five charges; Christopher Payne, aged 24, of Brighton, faces four; Wayne Kriehn, aged 20, of Carshalton, Surrey; faces six; Gwynfor Owen, aged 21, of Bangor Gwynedd, faces two charges; Signalman Martin Tuffy, aged 22, of Wallasey, Merseyside; faces three; and Lance Corporal Anthony Glass, aged 31, of Stockwell, south London, faces one charge.

Mr Wright told the jury that Cyprus was extremely close to several of the most sensitive areas in an unstable and troubled part of the world. "It is only 50 miles south of Turkey, 60 miles west of Syria and the Lebanon, and 200 miles north of Egypt. Next door to Egypt is Libya, further to the east on the Levantine coast are Iraq and Iran, and to the north of Turkey lies the Black Sea and Russia.

There he was given cannabis to smoke and more alcohol and in his own words became "pretty high" two Arabs appeared and started taking their clothes off "and then mine."



Signalman David Hardman with his girlfriend, Janet, after being acquitted on spying charges on the judge's direction after the crown offered no evidence.

BARRY WORLD CHAMPION



Barry McGuigan, riding on a float with the Lord Mayor, acknowledging supporters' cheers.

Belfast salutes a champion

Putting aside their deep political and religious differences, the people of Belfast yesterday acclaimed a young boxer from the Irish Republic as one of their own.

Typically, he was holding his son, Blain. His wife, Sandra, was close behind. They are, as he said, the foundation on which his rise to the top in the world of boxing has been based.

John said he wanted details about Jones' job and unless he got them would tell Jones' superiors what had been going on. Jones began passing classified information to John at the "Chiquitas" nightclub or John's flat.



Mr Wright said that Lightowler had admitted passing 10 top secret documents, hundreds of secret documents and information classified top secret. "If Jones was the ringleader, then it is the crown's case that Lightowler was his deputy."

Prisoners 'are kept worse than beasts'

Prisoners in Wandsworth are being treated worse than animals, according to a parliamentary petition from one inmate, Mr Geoffrey Petherick, published in the Commons Order Paper yesterday (Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent, writes).

Mr Petherick says conditions in the prison are worse than EEC regulations for transporting animals.

The petition says prison landings are "running alive" with mice after meals. Inmates are frightened of catching hepatitis after 20 confirmed cases.

Stonehenge convoy told to leave forest site

More than 500 members of the Stonehenge convoy taking refuge on a picnic area in the Savernake Forest were given a week to move by a High Court judge last night.

Mr Justice Saville granted immediate possession of the area, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, to the Forestry Commission, after a 35-minute private hearing.

Members of the convoy who had travelled to the court said that they had nothing to say.

Auctioneer 'in no doubt' about bid for yearling

The senior auctioneer for Tattersalls, Britain's largest bloodstock auctioneers, told the High Court yesterday that he had "absolutely no doubt" that 430,000 guineas had been bid for a colt at its yearling sale in Newmarket.

Captain Watt was giving evidence before Mr Justice Hirst, in an action brought by the original owners of the colt, Alchemy International Ltd, a Liechtenstein-based company, which is suing Tattersalls for the difference between the original bid and the 200,000 guineas the colt fetched when offered again on a less important day of the sale two days later.

But on hearing that Belfast's Lord Mayor, Mr John Carson, had organized a triumphal victory celebration and that crowds were already pouring into the city, the boxer altered his plans. As an aide explained: "He is the people's man, the people want him."

Captain Watt said that the rules allowed him to offer Sulafaah for resale immediately in the case of a "dispute" only. "In my view there had been no dispute in the ring and the contract had been made under our conditions of sale. The case continues today.

Frenchman fined for death crash

A French driver whose car rolled into a ditch killing two people and injuring 10 others, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £50 costs at Telford court yesterday.

Men disagree on status

Men who disagree on their status as homosexuals are being urged to seek legal advice, a report says.

£6m raiders get 22 years

Five members of the gang which was involved in Britain's biggest cash robbery, the theft of £6 million from the headquarters of Security Express, were jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The lives of guards were threatened and they were put in terror when the gang poured petrol over one guard and said he would be turned into a human torch if the vault keys were not handed over.

Mr Wright described the base where the seven defendants had worked. As close to the village of Ayios Nikolaos, part of the

A major Laing consultant.

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Small caption for the photograph.

Justice Most - THEM!

Justice Most - THEM! A cartoon illustration showing a man in a suit and a woman in a dress.

Inside

Inside... a small text block at the bottom left.

PARLIAMENT JUNE 10 1985

Abolition Bill report stage • Travel and safety • Care for disabled

Government to 'wait and see' on GLC Bill

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

secure precisely the coherence and effectiveness in planning which was needed; in fact they improved the present system.

They would provide a strategic framework which would coordinate the activities of these bodies, government departments, joint boards, nationalized industries, private firms, and individual boroughs and districts whose decisions would influence the future shape of cities.

Lord Elton said the Countryside Commission might have an important role to play. The chairman was shortly to discuss the question in both cash and manpower of ensuring that countryside management was responsibly carried forward by successor authorities.

What he was concerned about was to create precisely the kind of situation the Bill was designed to abolish. There were other and better ways of meeting the need for certain services to be co-ordinated and considered across local authority boundaries which did not, as these amendments did, multiply the stages of planning arrangements.

The Government was concerned that the expert teams should be kept together and had undertaken that the residual bodies would play a positive role in holding them together.

Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip-Northwood, C) in those important negotiations, will the minister approach the Council of Ministers under the Treaty of Rome and its important free competition provisions? There is a prima facie case that a number of countries, including France, are not carrying out those provisions, at least in

the case of France, Italy, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries and are maintaining pressure for establishment of a liberal air transport policy by the European Community.

Mr Jones: Will Mr Ridley indicate which countries are dragging their feet? Would it not be a good idea to open negotiations with countries outside the EEC such as Scandinavia to bring home to them the

benefits to their tourist trades of lowering fares and to hit these countries, which are being obstructive, in the pocket?

Mr Ridley: We are approaching countries which are not members, such as Norway, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland, to try to negotiate liberal arrangements with them.

Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) of the 10 new services to be introduced, six serve regional airports and that two out of the six new services to Germany are serving regional airports.

Mr Stephen Ross (Sale of Wight, L) suggested negotiations with West European countries because it was ridiculous not to be able to fly direct to east Berlin but to have to fly to Amsterdam and half way round the Baltic.

Mr Ridley: That is a different proposition. They are not used to private enterprise liberal arrangements.

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (Hamstead and Highgate, C) When he negotiates with the French Government, will he try to persuade them that it is crazy to keep a closed shop on fares and services to Strasbourg, which is not only meant to be the headquarters of the European Assembly but of the Council of Europe?

Mr Ridley: I agree. Both on the route to Paris and to other French airports, there seems to be no reason why there should not be total liberal arrangements. We are continually urging that view on our French friends.

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C) This major problem is pooling arrangements which state airlines have with each other. The European Mr Ridley: I only wish I could bring those pooling arrangements to an end. We have made our view clear in the EEC Council of Transport Ministers and will continue to do so, but it takes two to make an agreement.

Britain seeking more liberal air fare structure with France

AIR TRAVEL

The new liberal regime for air services between Britain and the Netherlands has led to a dramatic increase in passenger use and Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State for Transport, is hoping to see the French minister of aviation soon to discuss how to improve the structure of services between the two countries.

Mr Spicer said during questions in the Commons that since an agreement was reached last year, the lowest fares between London and Amsterdam had fallen by as much as 44 per cent. The lowest fare to Paris had risen by 4 per cent.

Mr Simon Coombs (Swindon, C) Those are remarkable figures, which demonstrate the importance of opening up European air routes to the maximum possible competition.

Against that background, does the minister recognize the need for French over the Channel with the route which does not show such remarkable improvement, but indeed a deterioration?

Mr Spicer: Mr Coombs is right that the new liberal regime with West Europe has had a dramatic effect on travel. That has risen by 17 per cent as against a European average of 10 per cent.

I hope to see the French minister of aviation within the next few weeks to discuss how to improve the structure of air fares between this country and France.

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Pressure for better coach safety

ROAD SAFETY

Britain was pressing as fast as it could for agreement in a high-level European working party on the whole question of coach safety, Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Minister of State for Transport, said during Commons questions. There was progress, she added, on two fronts - anti-roll bar equipment and the safety of seats.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L), referring to recent coach crashes, had asked what the minister was doing to improve the safety of public service vehicles and what was the possibility of regulations to introduce anti-roll bars as soon as possible.

Mrs Chalker: I share his concern. We have been discussing in a working group in Europe the whole question of coach safety because it is not just British coaches involved, it is coaches from all over Europe and beyond.

We are progressing on anti-roll bar equipment and second, for safety of seats against which passengers might be thrown, and also with the safety of public service vehicles and what is the possibility of regulations to introduce anti-roll bars as soon as possible.

Mr Weston Churchill (Davythwaite, C) After the success of the introduction of compulsory seat belts in private vehicles, how long before there will be at least the provision of seat belts in public transport vehicles?

Mrs Chalker: There is nothing to stop a local authority putting at least a lap belt in a public service vehicle, but the problem is that there is not a central grant support to which one could attach a shoulder belt and that is the most safe belt of all.

That is why we have been pursuing research very actively on seat strengths in order to hold passengers in. I cannot give him an exact time. We are in discussions on this in a high-level working group.

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C) This major problem is pooling arrangements which state airlines have with each other. The European Mr Ridley: I only wish I could bring those pooling arrangements to an end. We have made our view clear in the EEC Council of Transport Ministers and will continue to do so, but it takes two to make an agreement.

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Survey should help planning of services and cash benefits

DISABLED

The fifteenth anniversary of the Bill that became the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 was marked in the Commons by a debate initiated by the Bill's sponsor, Mr Alfred Morris, Opposition spokesman and former minister for the disabled.

He recalled that it was said in 1970 that his Bill was ambitious for any back-bench MP to introduce, but on reflection he regretted that it had not been more widely ranging and stronger in parts, and that it had not made it illegal to discriminate against disabled people.

Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Social Security and for the Disabled, said there could be very few Acts of Parliament which had made directly and indirectly so considerable an impact and its title had become almost a household word.

The Government had raised expenditure on benefits for the long term sick and disabled to £4 billion in 1984-85, more than 35 per cent higher in real terms than in 1978-79. The Government had improved the structure of benefits for disabled people.

The green paper proposals would be clearer and more comprehensive and avoid, as a routine matter, the sort of questioning about laundry needs and bathing habits which could occur at present. They would help those who are present but narrowly outside the qualifying criteria for mobility and attendance allowances. Those who qualified by incapacity would get a premium rate higher in real terms than in 1978-79. The Government had improved the structure of benefits for disabled people.

The new system was likely to do more to help the 50,000 long-term sick and disabled claimants of supplementary benefit. At present received no additional payments. An unemployed man with a disabled wife would receive the disability premium whereas at present he would get the shorter-term rate of benefit.

He could not give figures or percentages for new specific benefit rates until the details of the structure itself were settled, following consultation with disabled people. Significant numbers of disabled people were likely to gain. It was the Government's intention to make sure that, at the point of change in the system, there would be no loss of cash benefits or income support. He could not guarantee that all disabled people would be gainers and none would be losers in cash terms, but there would be full cash protection at the point of transition for those who might otherwise be losers.

He was conscious of the need to encourage disabled people to remain active to the maximum possible extent. The present rules could discourage them from working more than £4 a week. The Government had in mind a new figure of £15.

It was the Government's aim to enable the system to contribute more to the care of disabled people through a sensible mix of cash and care for vulnerable groups within the community. It was their intention that these arrangements should be run by specialist staff handling a limited number of cases.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) said Mr Newton was trying to ride two horses at once. He was trying to defend the Government's savage cuts on local authorities and at the same time trying to claim that they were defending the rights of disabled people. The two horses were incompatible. Care of local authorities severely damaged the living standards of disabled people.

One aim of the Act had been to get help with home repairs, aids and adaptations, but it had become a nightmare, a veritable grand national of obstacles to get help. Local authorities varied a great deal in their attitudes to disabled people and Mr Newton was too sanguine when he said that they were the best judges. It was a generality which overlooked the fact that there were many negligent, lazy, selfish and stupid local authorities which did not care about disabled people.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said that the cost of aid or reduction in the home help services was unjustified. It caused greater spending because it increased the need for people to be taken into residential care. Home help was one of the cheapest and most cost-effective services.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C) said there was a need for more non-intensive care facilities which could help prevent disabilities.

Mr Morris: Resist calls for benefit cuts. The basic income support that they could expect as a premium and assure MPs that the proposals would not be allowed to result in any reduction in real terms in the totality of expenditure on providing for the disabled and their families.

The Disability Alliance had said the social fund proposed in the Green Paper would assist the provision for people aged 18 and over with disabilities and would force claimants to beg at social security offices for desperately needed payments.

It had been said that there was alarm in the voluntary sector that the boards and lodging regulations as applied to residential and nursing care would lead to people being thrown out of homes when they could no longer afford to pay the rent when they were permanently in hospital.

Driving people into institutions by depriving them of benefits would lead to higher costs. The calls for cuts in benefits in the social security bill would be a disaster. His review had to be restricted to the interests both of disabled people and the taxpayer. Most people with disabilities had a higher cost of living and lower than average incomes.

Mr Anthony Newton: The Government attached great importance to the question of access for the disabled and the Secretary of State for Environment (Mr Patrick Jenkin) had announced an amendment to building regulations, which would force access to new shops, offices and single-storey public buildings. Local authorities were the best

to make it easier for disabled people to get help with home repairs, aids and adaptations, but it had become a nightmare, a veritable grand national of obstacles to get help. Local authorities varied a great deal in their attitudes to disabled people and Mr Newton was too sanguine when he said that they were the best judges. It was a generality which overlooked the fact that there were many negligent, lazy, selfish and stupid local authorities which did not care about disabled people.

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Mr Anthony Newton: The Government attached great importance to the question of access for the disabled and the Secretary of State for Environment (Mr Patrick Jenkin) had announced an amendment to building regulations, which would force access to new shops, offices and single-storey public buildings. Local authorities were the best

to make it easier for disabled people to get help with home repairs, aids and adaptations, but it had become a nightmare, a veritable grand national of obstacles to get help. Local authorities varied a great deal in their attitudes to disabled people and Mr Newton was too sanguine when he said that they were the best judges. It was a generality which overlooked the fact that there were many negligent, lazy, selfish and stupid local authorities which did not care about disabled people.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said that the cost of aid or reduction in the home help services was unjustified. It caused greater spending because it increased the need for people to be taken into residential care. Home help was one of the cheapest and most cost-effective services.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C) said there was a need for more non-intensive care facilities which could help prevent disabilities.

RAF airlift ceases at end of September

FAMINE RELIEF

The RAF Hercules which has been airlifting food and other emergency supplies in Ethiopia will be withdrawn at the end of September, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, told the Commons.

He also announced further British aid of £750,000 for transport needs and held out the prospect of 10,000 tonnes more food aid during the short haul air route needed in all.

Of these about 1,300 are currently deployed including 350 recently made available by the Ethiopians. A further 450 trucks pledged by donors should arrive soon. He hoped the Ethiopians will provide more.

We shall provide further assistance of £750,000 for transport needs in Ethiopia, including semitrailers and trucks hire, covered by the aid and provided it can operate effectively during the rains, we have decided to extend the British airlift, until September 30. It will then be withdrawn after 11 months' magnificent work.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) It is a disgrace that the Ethiopian Government has failed to carry out the commitment it gave, which was both practical and generous, to provide 4,000 vehicles for the much needed distribution of aid.

Has Mr Raison made any estimate of the additional suffering of the Ethiopian people due to the

oppressive non-commitment of their government? Mr Raison: I cannot give any such estimate. For some months we and other western donors have been pressing the Ethiopians to fulfil their earlier promise to provide vehicles. They have now undertaken to deploy military vehicles and all other available transport to increase the daily take-up from the port of Assab from 1,200 tonnes a day to 4,000 tonnes a day in order to clear the congestion there. I hope that will now be successfully achieved.

Mr Nigel Forman (Carshalton and Wallington, C) Could Mr Raison say whether the 350 vehicles which should arrive soon are already made available represent a significant part of the total needs of transport? Mr Raison: The 350 is a valuable contribution; it is significant. I believe the Ethiopians have altogether some 4,000 military vehicles. Mr Robert Macdonald (Caithness and Sutherland, SDPO) Why is Mr Raison proposing to discontinue the valuable service of the RAF Hercules after 11 months? Mr Raison: I believe by the end of September the road network will be sufficiently clear to allow transport to Ethiopia so far this year were 680,000 tonnes.

We stand ready to provide up to 10,000 tonnes more bilateral aid aid when we are satisfied about the arrangements to be made for its transport and distribution in Ethiopia.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) What about the growth of coaches in central London? Mr Spicer: We are studying the whole question of congestion in the London area, but this has as much to do with the increase in tourism as about the liberalization of coach services.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley (South Surrey, C) Has deregulation had any effect on safety records? Mr Spicer: The safety record of long distance coaches is good and getting better. The number of bus and coach passengers has halved in the last decade and the safety record of coaches is now equal to that of rail travel.

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Mr Spicer: The Government is becoming increasingly impatient that the provisions of the Treaty of Rome which apply to manufacturing industry do not apply to service industries, especially aviation.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State: We have negotiated liberal air service arrangements with the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. We are in the course of

negotiations with the United Kingdom. Mr Spicer: Under Secretary of State for Transport, is hoping to see the French minister of aviation soon to discuss how to improve the structure of services between the two countries.

Mr Spicer said during questions in the Commons that since an agreement was reached last year, the lowest fares between London and Amsterdam had fallen by as much as 44 per cent. The lowest fare to Paris had risen by 4 per cent.

Mr Simon Coombs (Swindon, C) Those are remarkable figures, which demonstrate the importance of opening up European air routes to the maximum possible competition.

Against that background, does the minister recognize the need for French over the Channel with the route which does not show such remarkable improvement, but indeed a deterioration?

Mr Spicer: Mr Coombs is right that the new liberal regime with West Europe has had a dramatic effect on travel. That has risen by 17 per cent as against a European average of 10 per cent.

Classified documents investigation

SECURITY

Investigations into the discovery of classified defence documents by two boys on a London rubbish dump have been completed and a report is being prepared on the incident, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said in the Commons.

Replying to a question from Mr Tam Dalyell (Leithport, Lab), he said the boys had found the documents at the premises of J. J. Maybanks Ltd, contractors to HMSO for the disposal of restricted, in confidence and unclassified paper waste.

The documents were classed as restricted and printed on plastic paper or microfiche. They should not have been included in the material for disposal by Maybanks as they were non-pulpable.

All Ministry of Defence staff were now being reminded about the correct method of disposing of non-pulpable material and steps to be taken to avoid a recurrence, he said.

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Institute points way to save £40bn a year

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government could save more than £40 billion a year if it continued to follow the privatization and deregulation plans of the Adam Smith Institute, it was claimed yesterday.

Dr Madsen Pirie, president of the institute, said savings - from the sale of the Post Office, National Coal Board and other public bodies, and other cuts in the government machine - would provide for cuts in income tax and VAT.

Details of the projected savings, which even include privatization in the field of defence, are given in the institute's latest publication, 'The Omega File', a 440-page compilation of reports published during the past two years.

'Supermarket for cars' runs into European sales dispute

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A new car showroom widely advertised as the first in Britain to offer all makes of car instead of being tied to a single make was criticized last night by the Motor Agents Association as "a misleading nonsense".

Mr Philip Stein, the association's director of public relations, said: "If that was true, it would be driving a 10-ton truck through the EEC regulations which come into force on July 1 giving special recognition to the long-standing franchised system of selling cars."

"This is a company acting as an agent for motorists wishing to import a car in the hope of getting it cheaper. The new regulations specifically prohibit such an intermediary from buying and selling cars."

"They must restrict their activities to making the arrangements for a personal import. That means the buyer must collect the car on the Continent and drive it home, not buy it in a showroom here."

"Any suggestion that this is the forerunner of a chain of new car supermarkets is absurd."

The new showroom, owned by Inter-car (UK), will be formally opened in Wrexham on Saturday by Miss Beata Brookes, north Wales member of the European Parliament. Yesterday Mr David Fletcher, the company's director and founder, denied the claim to be the first multi-make car showroom was misleading.

"We can make arrangements for almost any make of car to be purchased. The cars on show here have been bought commercially by us in Europe and will be sold for less than you would have to pay in Britain. But that is quite separate from the personal import scheme we also run here."

"His publicity material claims: 'We can generally offer our customer better savings than if they choose to go ahead by themselves as we have negotiated very large discounts from continental sources. At present savings can be as much as £5,400 on Mercedes 500 SEC and £1,000 on a smaller Metro.'"

It also suggests that customers can collect their new vehicles from the factory, for example Renaults from Paris, Volvos from Gothenberg or Amsterdam."

Mr Fletcher admitted this suggested that some manufacturers prepared to sell direct to the customer in breach of their own zealously guarded franchise contracts. "Yes, but I had better bow out without going any further," he said.

Asked about 90 new cars said to be held in stock, he replied: "Most of them are on the continent." He said Inter-car handled about 2,500 car purchases last year of which about 2,000 were personal imports.

Volvo UK denied that the factory was breaking its own franchise contracts with UK dealers by permitting buyers to by-pass them and collect direct from the factory.



Moderate Sikhs armed with staves ejecting a young militant from the Golden Temple rally.

Extremists disrupt rally by 15,000 Sikh moderates

Amritsar (AP) - Several people were injured when extremists disrupted a rally by an estimated 15,000 Sikh moderates at the Golden Temple despite the presence of more than 1,000 paramilitary troops and police.

The rally on Sunday commemorated the Sikhs killed a year ago when Indian Army troops attacked the heavily-fortified complex to flush out extremists using it as a sanctuary and base for a terrorist campaign seeking political and religious concessions from the Government.

Sikh moderates preparing for the rally set up a barbed-wire fence around the main temple hall and deployed about 700 volunteer guards armed with bamboo staves and knives. About 200 plainclothes police were visible in the complex.

The trouble began soon after arrival of three senior Sikhs, Harchand Singh Longowal, Gurcharan Singh Tohra and Parkash Singh Badal, who made their first joint appearance at the temple since their release in March and April.

Radical youths shouting separatist slogans from the balcony threw leaflets calling these traitors.

Many people suffered injuries in the clashes that followed.

WASHINGTON: Four Sikhs charged in alleged plots to kill the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, attended a commando school in November in the southern US town of Dolomite, Alabama, to learn assassination techniques, according to the school's proprietor (AP reports).

"They were very open with their politics and led us to believe they were going to do what they wanted to do in India," Mr Frank Casper, who operates the mercenary school, said in a newspaper interview.

Mr Gurbaj Singh Burk, described as leader of the group, has been indicted with two other Sikhs on charges of conspiring to murder Mr Gandhi, who arrives in the United States today.

Mexican visit aims at trade and investment boost

From John Carlin, Mexico City

President Miguel de la Madrid arrives in Britain today, returning a State visit to Mexico by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in February 1983.

According to Government officials, Señor De la Madrid's delegation will be aiming, primarily, to persuade Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues that Mexico, having pulled back from the edge of economic disaster, now offers favourable conditions for an increase in bilateral trade and a reactivation of British investment.

President De la Madrid and his Cambridge-educated Foreign Minister, Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda, both made clear before leaving last week on a 20-day European tour that Central America would be high on their agenda.

They will seek support for the efforts of the four-nation Contadora group, of which Mexico is now the most active member, to find peaceful negotiated solutions to the area's conflicts.

According to the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, Britain is Mexico's second-largest foreign investor, a long way behind the United States and its fifth trading partner.

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The alternative, which the Government appears to accept, is a stagnant economy perpetually reined in by a massive foreign debt. In the next five years Mexico must pay its international creditors \$60 billion in interest alone.

Mexico, one businessman expained, has a lot to offer the foreign investor: cheap labour, a large (78 million population) internal market, and, most attractive of all, the United States.

On the negative side, however, foreign businessmen have found that a tortuous government bureaucracy has often dampened their enthusiasm with investment schemes.

It should prove less difficult for Señor De la Madrid to convince Britain to collaborate in what a Mexican Government statement described as "joint efforts" to ensure "the principles of self-determination, peaceful coexistence and non-intervention" prevail over "the use of physical or economic force" in international relations.

These are the Contadora principles - pointedly counter to US policy in Central America - which Britain and 11 other Western European nations formally accepted at a meeting of European and Latin American foreign ministers in San José, capital of Costa Rica, in October.

Democratic challenge, page 12
Leading article, 13

End of youth detention orders called for

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Detention centre orders should be abolished, Ms Vivian Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said yesterday.

The two custodial sentences for young offenders, detention centre and youth custody, should be merged instead into a single youth custody sentence, she suggested.

She was commenting on a Nacro briefing paper which says that, since the new youth custody sentences replaced borstal and prison sentences for young people in mid-1983, the use of detention centres has dropped sharply, in contrast with the trend of the previous 10 years.

From July 1983 to June 1984, 16 per cent fewer juveniles and 6 per cent fewer young adults went to detention centres than in 1982. Many boys who would formerly have entered detention

£380,000 added to Pink Panther award

Miss Lynne Fredericks, the actress, is to be paid an additional £380,000 on her \$1 million High Court award over the Pink Panther film that should never have been made.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Hobhouse, who last month made the award to Miss Fredericks, aged 30, the widow of Peter Sellers, said that interest should run from July 1982, adding an additional £320,000 to the total.

The action arose over the making of the film *Trail of the Pink Panther*. Mr Blake Edwards, the film director, and United Artists, made the film in early 1982 from clips and discarded pieces of old film.

Miss Fredericks, the fourth wife of Mr Sellers, will also get an additional estimated £60,000 for the use of clips from the films *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* and *Revenge of the Pink Panther*.

Children get video warning of sex danger

A video designed to alert children and parents to the dangers, and possible prevention, of child sex abuse was launched yesterday.

The film uses cartoon characters such as the Smurfs, the Flintstones and Yogi Berra, and well-known television faces, to teach children how to avoid being molested and abducted. It was researched by the Rev Brian Brown and staff of the Television Research Unit at Oxford Polytechnic, with professional advice from Mr David Pithers, director of the Centre for Study and Development of Child Care at the National Children's Home.

Mr Pithers, who has been investigating child abuse cases for the past 20 years, estimates that one in five children experiences sexual abuse before the age of 16.

Strong Kids, Safe Kids (CIC Videos, £9.99).

London centre sites show high lead levels

By David Nicholson-Lord

A survey of lead in air and dust at 15 sites near busy roads in London has disclosed levels consistently above safety guidelines laid down by the Greater London Council.

In three places they were above EEC standards. Fleet Street, with its concentration of printworks, was among the worst offenders.

But a study of fruit and vegetables grown on allotments and gardens in the capital has proved more reassuring. Only 29 out of 1,000 samples, or 3 per cent, breached the legal standards for food sold in shops. Nineteen of the 29 were lettuces and blackberries.

An annual mean limit of two micrograms per cubic metre for airborne lead concentrations is recommended in an EEC directive as well as in the report of a Department of Health and Social Security working party. The GLC guideline, based on exposure to lead in dust as well as air, is expressed as a joint standard of one microgram per cubic metre in air and 500 micrograms of lead per gram of dust, taken together.

The survey was designed by the air pollution group of the GLC's scientific services

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The Star Wars controversy

Sceptics threaten budget cuts

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan faces a tough battle in Congress to save his Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) from further substantial budget cuts.

There appears a deepening mood of scepticism on Capitol Hill about Mr Reagan's claims that the multi-billion dollar research programme could lead to the deployment of space weapons capable of making nuclear missiles obsolete.

The project was dealt a financial blow last week by the senate, which during deliberations on the 1976 Defence Authorization Bill, reduced his SDI budget request from \$3.72 billion (£2.95 bn) to \$2.97 billion.

The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, which will vote this month, will

consider several amendments to reduce it further.

When Mr Reagan announced the SDI in March 1983, the broad aim was to make it a £26 billion five-year programme ending in 1990. That timetable has slipped at least a year and perhaps more as a result of a Congressional decision last year to provide only \$1.4 billion in the 1985 Budget - 21 per cent less than requested.

Senator John Warner, a Virginia Republican and chairman of the armed services strategic sub-committee, said that what saved the SDI from further Senate cuts was "a sense of obligation to support our negotiators" at the arms control talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva.

SDI supporters are far from

confident that the house will be impressed by that argument. They note that it reduced substantially Mr Reagan's MX missile programme in the face of similar pleas.

Senator Sam Nunn, the senior Democrat on the armed services committee, said the Administration would not be able to keep Congress and the public sold on the SDI unless it produced a more defensible definition of what it was designed to accomplish.

The Reagan definition was so broad and ambitious that unlimited money could be spent without achieving any specific objective, he said. "I don't know a single scientist in the country who agrees with the President's definition of the programme."

Senator Bennett Johnston, a Louisiana Democrat, appeared to touch the mood of a large segment of Congress on the floor of the Senate last week during which he challenged: "Is there anybody who will get up on this floor and say the President was right, that we have any possibility of making nuclear weapons obsolete? Of course not."

He added: "The truth of the matter is we do not know what Star Wars is. It is a whole collection of technologies that we are going to be chasing out there."

"There is only one thing sure and that is if we do eventually find it... it is going to violate the ABM (anti ballistic missile) treaty and put us into a new space race with the Russians."

Kremlin says it will not try to match US

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet Union has decided not to try to match the Star Wars programme for space-based anti-missile defences, properly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative, according to a Soviet military spokesman.

General Nikolai Chervov said in an interview in Moscow with two *Washington Post* journalists that Russia would concentrate instead on "cheaper weapons" designed to penetrate and overwhelm any space "umbrella" the US was able to devise.

"We are not going to take the path the American administration is trying to force us on to," General Chervov said. Moscow would not ape the US by spending billions on space weaponry.

The general, who is a head of department in the Soviet general staff, is not thought to be a key decision maker, but his views usually reflect current Soviet thinking.

He often acts as spokesman for the military in dealings with the Western media and Western academics.

Although he emphasized that his *Washington Post* interview contained his "personal" views there is no doubt that he was spelling out what leading Soviet military figures such as Marshal Sergei Sokolov, the Defence Minister, have hinted at.

Last month Marshal Sokolov made a rare admission that Moscow was conducting military research in space but

insisted it was for peaceful purposes only. The Kremlin denies Western reports that Russia has long had its own Star Wars type research programme.

General Chervov said Russia was not afraid of an American technological breakthrough it could not match, as many Western experts have suggested. America had suggested at the Geneva arms talks that the two superpowers agree on "rules of conduct" for the arms race in space, but the Soviet aim was a complete ban on all space weapons.

The *Washington Post* reporters said General Chervov indicated the Russians had concluded that the arms control process of the past two decades was "on the verge of collapse."

However, he reiterated Mr Gorbachov's proposal for a 25 per cent cut in intercontinental ballistic missiles in exchange for abandonment of Star Wars and the Soviet leader's moratorium on SS20 deployments until November.

General Chervov said that if America responded to the moratorium Russia would put detailed proposals on the table.

The purpose of General Chervov's interview appeared to be to persuade Western opinion that Russia is not - as the US claims - engaged in research and development of space weapons, and to convey the impression that the Reagan Administration's investment in SDI will prove a costly irrelevance.



Mr David Lane, the new British Ambassador to the Holy See, presenting his credentials to the Pope at a ceremony in the papal studio of the Apostolic Palace.

Zimbabwe extends candidate deadlines

From Jan Raath Harare

A presidential order issued yesterday has extended the deadline for the nomination of candidates in Zimbabwe's elections by a day and a half. The original deadline was for mid-day yesterday.

Dr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, said at a press conference that the Government had decided to extend the time allowed on the advice of the Electoral Supervisory Commission after opposition parties complained that they would not be able to meet the deadline.

On Saturday the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Zapu, the opposition party of Mr Joshua Nkomo, for the proclamation setting nomination dates to be declared ultra vires on the ground that it was unreasonable to expect parties to complete the nomination formalities in time.

Yesterday Dr Zvobgo said the extension had been ordered because the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, felt that the Government should "bend over backwards to ensure to all concerned that the Government truly wants... to have a free and fair election," despite the Supreme Court's decision.

Accordingly, parties have been given until 5pm today to lodge their nominations. Yet it became apparent that the decision would have become necessary, anyway.

By 1pm yesterday, officials at the nomination court for black candidates (whose election is on July 1 and 2) said they had processed only 22 of the 70 nominations Zapu had lodged and two of the United African National Council of the former prime minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

Scores of candidates and officials of the Registrar-General's office jostled around trestle tables laden with already well-thumbed computer print-outs containing the voters' rolls, checking that the signatories to the nomination papers were correctly enrolled in the constituency the candidates intended to contest.

It was a tedious process. One Zapu candidate had been waiting 30 minutes for his list of signatories to be ratified. The checking was not always satisfactory the first time round, requiring a second search in the rolls.

Heated arguments between officials and candidates interrupted by police, frequently broke above the general hubbub.

"They would obviously not have been able to complete the business in three hours (the nomination court was originally set to start at 10am and close at 1pm)," said Mr John Nkomo, Zapu's publicity secretary.

Fortress America sentiment growing

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A new opinion poll has provided fresh evidence of the rise in protectionist sentiment in the United States.

The poll, carried out by *The New York Times* and CBS News, shows that most Americans believe that foreign trade restrictions on imports, even if it means less choice of products.

The poll was taken soon after last month's economic summit

in Bonn, at which the US failed to get agreement on a date for a new round of trade talks early next year. It also came just a few days after the Government reported a record trade deficit of \$11.85 billion (£9 billion) for April.

The poll found that 70 per cent of Americans thought trade restrictions were a good idea, while only 21 per cent did not. Not surprisingly, protectionist

sentiment was strongest in the industrial mid-West: 75 per cent of those living in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin blamed foreign trade for heavy job losses there.

The poll findings are likely to swell the protectionist sentiment that has been building up in Congress over the past few months.

Japan and Mexico were identified as the chief culprits.

Falklands pledge by Argentina

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - Argentina said yesterday it would preserve the lifestyle of the Falkland Islanders if an agreement was reached with Britain on the disputed territory.

Argentina fervently wishes to reach an agreement satisfactory to both parties," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement reported by the semi-official news agency Telam.

"It is willing to offer the residents of the islands the appropriate safeguards and guarantees for the protection of their interests and their lifestyle."

Today is a public holiday in Argentina to commemorate its governorship of the Falklands, set up in 1829. Britain took the islands in 1833.

The statement repeated earlier criticism of Britain's opening of a new runway in the islands, saying it posed a strategic threat to the entire region.

Portugal faces future with pessimism

Portugal won reasonable security by excluding from its coastal waters the more modern Spanish fleets, such as the Galicians, and by introducing the EEC licence system in its 200-mile zone.

But it can no longer apply administrative restrictions against Spain's industrial imports after 1988.

It will at best be a controlled experiment. There will be no safeguard clauses against Spain's industrial goods but an arrangement to apply to all EEC countries if a serious balance of payments problem should emerge.

Portugal's best EEC industrial opportunities lie in textiles last year it exported 2900 million worldwide. Spain agreed to retain for Portugal the members give it on textiles, but with temporary restrictions to protect the Catalan industry.

Importing half of its food requirements, and with 28 per cent of the working population in agriculture contributing only 14 per cent of the Gross National Product, Portugal will for five years after entry be allowed to regulate its farming policy. It will receive EEC aid of \$500 million to modernise agriculture.

The country had no modern roads into Europe, and the European Investment Bank is already helping with the construction of north-south and west-east motorways to Spain.

"How can we expect to place our 120 different brands of port wine abroad?" a former Portuguese minister asked the other day. The cultural shock of joining will be as great as the economic challenge for Portugal.

Writing last month in *Expresso* the Lisbon weekly a Portuguese judge warned his countrymen. "We are going to have to compete alongside the 'poor people of Europe', were everything is planned, disciplined and then seriously carried out."

Concluded

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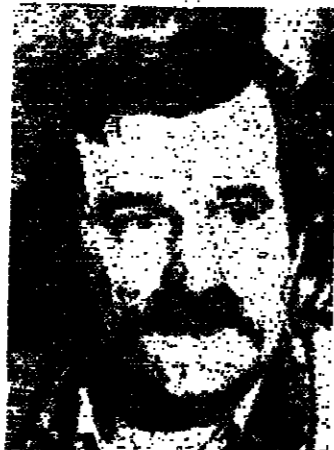
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Walesa denies strike plot and seeks release of dissidents

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw



Mr Walesa: "Nothing to hide"

Mr Lech Walesa, proudly wearing a Solidarity T-shirt, yesterday urged a Polish court to release three of his dissident colleagues and stressed they were not part of a secret conspiracy to spread strikes in Poland.

The Solidarity chairman was testifying in the Gdansk trial of the historian Adam Michnik, and Solidarity organizers Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Bogdan Lis, who are accused of inciting public unrest and of occupying leading positions in the banned Solidarity union.

They have pleaded not guilty but face jail terms of up to five years if convicted.

The main judge, Mr Krzysztof Ziemiuk, asked Mr Walesa about the meeting of seven Solidarity activists on February 13, noted by police, in which the three defendants were arrested.

"I told the court," said Mr Walesa after testifying, "that three innocent people were sitting in the dock. There is no civilized country in the world in which one is unable to meet with one's friends."

Mr Walesa testified that the meeting was held on his initiative and that it was in no sense a conspiracy, only a private, social gathering to talk about current events.

"I have nothing to hide about the meeting," he told reporters yesterday, because the meeting was not secret and those who took part in it were not hiding when they came to the flat.

Mr Walesa testified for 50 minutes and was clearly anticipating a tough fight with the judge. As he walked jauntily to the court he wore his T-shirt marked "L'Honneur de Fer" (Man of Iron) and "Solidarnosc" - rather as if it were a team jersey in a particularly vindictive rugby league match.

However the judge reserved his harshness for Mr Michnik. As Mr Walesa left the courtroom, the historian shouted out: "Don't worry Lech, Solidarity will win anyway." Mr Michnik was promptly expelled from the court, the fourth expulsion in the trial so far.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman, Mr Zenon Jankowski, yesterday tried to refute each one of Mr Michnik's complaints about the conduct of the trial. The court, he said, had a perfect right to exclude foreign journalists and outside observers, the defendants had been allowed frequent contacts with their lawyers and defence counsel questioning about the legal expertise of the main judge was a breach of the lawyers' gentlemen's code.

A Polish-style catch-22 emerged from the Justice Ministry conference: judges, said Mr Jankowski, would take into account the objective reporting of the political trials before allowing foreign reporters into the courtroom. But reporters would not be allowed into the Gdansk courtroom because they were not objective.

After Mr Walesa's testimony yesterday two police experts were called to testify on the authenticity of a tape-recording of a conversation between Mr Lis and two secret police officers.

They said, contrary to the claims of the defendants, that the tape was an original recording and had not been tampered with.



Mr Wu Xueqian and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Ministers of China and West Germany respectively, signing an economic co-operation agreement in Bonn yesterday, as Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, and Chancellor Kohl (centre) look on.

Sri Lankan army eases up as truce hopes grow

From a Correspondent
Colombo

The Army in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province has virtually been confined to barracks on orders from Colombo.

A senior officer told *The Times* that orders to suspend all anti-guerrilla operations which involved search and arrest of suspects and cordoning off of areas had been sent to the commander in Jaffna, where much of the fighting has taken place.

The order has come at a time when there is optimism about arranging a ceasefire between the Government and the separatist fighters, after the recent summit between President Jayewardene and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. One of the main points in the joint communiqué was that in order to find a solution, violence must cease.

In Jaffna, reports indicate that youths who were openly carrying guns are not seen any more on the streets and no incidents have been reported during the last week.

In another development, senior members of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), including three former MPs, two ex-mayors and the former chairman of the district development council met in Jaffna after nearly two years to explore how TULF's machinery in the villages could be reactivated.

Deng makes 1 million troop cut official

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's leader, has formally announced that the country's four-million strong armed forces will be cut by a million men over a period of two years, the New China news agency said yesterday.

Mr Deng, as the Supreme Commander of the People's Liberation Army, gave the news to a specially enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission last week.

The news was first released by the Communist Party's Secretary-General, Mr Hu Yaobang, during a trip to New Zealand in April. Mr Hu's announcement came as a shock to most foreign military attachés who expected some cuts but not quite such a drastic reduction.

However, Mr Deng later indicated that Mr Hu was correct and last week's meeting underlined his serious intention. He made clear to the officers that the cuts were to save money for the country's civilian modernization effort. The forces could only be strengthened after China achieved a firmer economic base.

Mr Deng has put the armed forces last in his list of development priorities. The Army has not only been a drain on the nation's treasury but has been seen by Western diplomats as a surviving hotbed of leftist sympathy, and therefore opposed to Mr Deng's reforms.

Ex-Marine hunted over sex torture

San Francisco (Reuters) - Police are hunting for Charles Lake, aged 24, a former Marine whose cabin near here was found to contain human remains and a "sexual torture chamber". He is suspected of being linked to the disappearance of up to 25 people and has been charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment.

His companion, Leonard Lake, aged 39, committed suicide on Thursday while in custody during a shoplifting investigation.

Police searching the isolated cabin he shared with Ng found two bodies and parts of four more. They have recovered 50 bags of splintered human bones and some lurid videotapes.

A police spokesman said: "A number of people whose lives have sometimes been touched by Lake or Ng are missing. We are talking about up to 25 people."

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Ottawa fails to end human rights rift

From John Best, Ottawa

The first human rights conference under the 1975 Helsinki Final Act is nearing its closing stage this week amid uncertainty as to what it is likely to achieve.

The wide gulf that separates Western and Soviet bloc delegations is well illustrated by the 46 separate proposals which have been placed before the 35-nation conference, and which have to be dealt with before it ends on June 17.

A proposal submitted by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary for instance, calls for an essentially non-interventionist approach.

It asserts that transferring "ideological differences" over human rights into the area of inter-state relations would inevitably "harden" the international situation, and calls instead for "cooperation" in the rights domain.

This cooperation must conform to the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states.

There seems to be no chance of this proposal being adopted as it stands, since the West holds that the Helsinki Act implicitly gives the signatories

wide scope for examining compliance by other states with the human rights and other provisions.

The conference moves on the basis of consensus, meaning that each participant had a veto over its decisions.

Similarly, it is hard to conceive of the Soviet bloc allowing a series of propositions advanced by Western states to be adopted. One of these, aimed by inference at the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, calls for the removal of obstacles against monitoring the implementation of the Final Act.

Another calls on participating states to respect the "fundamental right of freedom of movement in all its aspects."

Still another, urges that individuals be protected from psychiatric practices which violate human rights, a motion aimed at the Soviet Union, which often deals with dissidents by consigning them to psychiatric institutions.

Finding a way to deal with these and other contentious motions, presents a formidable challenge to the conference.

Leading article, page 13

Denktas promises hard line

From Rasit Gurdilek
Ankara

Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, who was elected president of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" with an overwhelming majority on the weekend, said Turkish Cypriots would never accept terms that might weaken their situation, at any future talks for a federal republic.

Mr Denktas received just under 70 per cent of the votes, trouncing left-wing rivals. The voter turnout was reported to be above 80 per cent.

Addressing a crowd in Nicosia after his election was assured, Mr Denktas pledged that "no one will be able to impose on you an agreement which is inadmissible, which takes away your rights, leaves your security vulnerable to threats and does away with guarantees of the motherland."

In an interview on state radio yesterday, Mr Denktas said the result was a public vote of confidence in his administration's policies on Cyprus.

Referring to the reported agreement of President Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader to an "alternative formula" for a federal settlement, Mr Denktas said he had "no knowledge of a new package."

Mr Denktas did not rule out the possibility of new peace talks but reiterated that they could start only after general elections in the north set for June 23.

Invitation to a day of music

From Diana Geddes
Paris

M Jack Lang, the French Minister of Culture, called yesterday on musicians and music-lovers throughout Europe to join him in celebrating Friday, June 21, the first day of summer, as a great "Fête de la Musique".

Britain is one of 19 countries which have agreed this year to participate in the celebrations first launched by M Lang in 1982. The idea has enjoyed a huge success here, and last year some six million amateurs and professionals came out onto the streets to "make music".

This year, more than 1,000 musical events, classical, jazz and pop, have been organized in churches and hospitals, prisons and museums, squares and parks, concert halls and cafes throughout the country.

But perhaps more important than the planned events will be, as in previous years, the millions of impromptu performances given on street corners by anyone who feels capable.

Not everyone is so enchanted with the idea, however. For some people, whatever the Socialists do must automatically be bad. As M Jacques Medecin, the outspoken Gaullist Mayor of Nice, commented sourly: "For me, the Fête de la Musique is simply a political gimmick which has nothing to do with any policy for music."

Lawyers try to throw out Hong Kong Bill

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Law Society and other representatives of the legal community yesterday held a press conference here to protest against the impending passage of a controversial Government Bill on the powers and privileges of the local legislature.

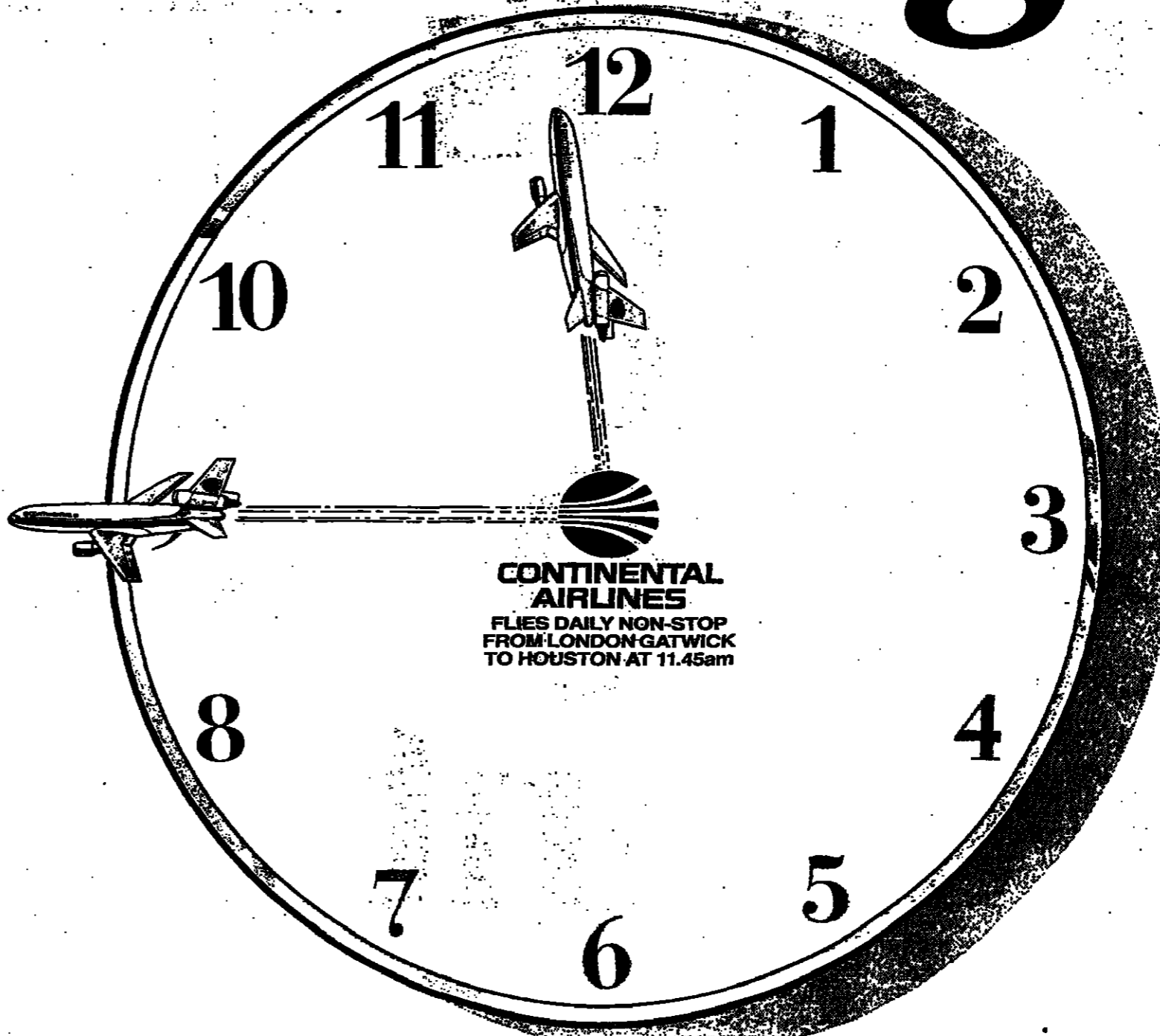
The Bill makes it a criminal offence for anyone to criticize the words of a member of the Legislative Council "with intentional disrespect." It also limits the general public's freedom of

access to the proceedings of the council, which this year will have elected representatives for the first time.

Officials claim the Bill should go through as soon as possible, in order to protect the newly elected members of the council when they take their seats later this year.

Mr Brian Tisdall, president of the Law Society, queried the reasons for the Government's espousal of the Bill

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Gunmen kidnap British-born professor in west Beirut

From Richard Dowden, Beirut

Gunmen kidnaped another American in west Beirut on Sunday night sending a shiver through the expatriate community here.

The seizure of British-born Professor Thomas Sutherland, aged 53, the dean of the agriculture faculty at the American University of Beirut, brings the number of foreigners missing since March last year to 12. Seven of them are American, four are French and one is British.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for yesterday's kidnapping. The gunmen, about six in number, attacked as Professor Sutherland left the airport on his way back to the university after a three-week absence in America.

They shot at the tyres of his car and shattered the windscreen, showering him and his driver with glass, but there was no indication that he had been

hurt. Then they bundled him into one of their two cars. He was in the car belonging to the principal of the university, Mr Calvin Plimpton, and there has been speculation that the gunmen were looking for Mr Plimpton.

Professor Sutherland, born in Scotland and educated at Glasgow University, has worked at the university for two years. He is married with three daughters and was returning from his home in Colorado. He was travelling through the Shia-controlled area of south Beirut when the incident happened.

Mr Radwan Maswi, the university spokesman, said that senior university officials were usually accompanied by bodyguards but Professor Sutherland never felt frightened and did not ask for guards.

Mr Maswi said that he had returned to the university to supervise the final exams and prepare for the summer term. He appealed to his captors to release him.

The shadowy group Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for seven of the kidnappings, producing photographs of five Americans and two Frenchmen. They are demanding the release of 17 people convicted of the bombings of the French and American embassies in Kuwait in 1983.

The fate of Mr Alec Collett, a British journalist working for Unwra remains a mystery, as does the motive for the murder of Mr Denis Hill, another British teacher at the university whose bullet-ridden body was found near the university last month.



Thomas Sutherland: Born in Scotland

Gandhi and Paris part as friends

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, left Paris for Algiers yesterday morning after a successful four-day official visit which confirmed the political reconciliation between India and France after February's spy scandal and brought closer economic and industrial co-operation.

President Mitterrand, who met Mr Gandhi on no less than five occasions, said in an interview on Indian television that "the misunderstandings or difficulties have been overcome, and the prospects for the future leave me full of optimism."

The concrete results of the visit were not particularly spectacular: an important contract was signed with the French company Jeumont-Schneider for Indian telecommunications companies to construct under

licence telephone exchanges worth 500 million francs (£42 million); another contract was concluded for the use of French technology in cleaning up the Ganges; and an agreement was signed setting up a Franco-Indian centre for advanced research in four areas: bio-technology, applied mathematics, optical physics and electro-optics.

DELHI: British hopes of making some significant sales of defence items to India rose slightly yesterday after the announcement was made that the Indian Defence Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao would visit London today (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Mr Narasimha Rao will meet Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, for two hours this morning.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Jordan Hashim Gharaibeh

By Caroline Moorehead

In 1978, when Hashim Gharaibeh became an adopted Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, he was a 30-year-old student and part-time government employee. He was arrested in March of that year for alleged membership of the Jordanian Communist Party and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the military court of Amman.

It is virtually impossible to set up a political party in Jordan. A number of laws, passed in the 1950s, regulate all political activity. In particular, Law No. 91 prohibits a Communist Party and specifies that any communist activity may be punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for as long as 15 years.

In replies to letters from Amnesty members, the Jordanian Government has said that Hashim Gharaibeh violated the anti-communist law through "his subversive activities among the student body of the University of Yarmouk."

In April, 1984, Gharaibeh was one of several dozen political prisoners who went on hunger strike in protest at prison conditions in al-Mahatta prison in Amman. Earlier this year he was transferred to Maan prison in the south. During his seven years in detention he has written several plays.



Mr Gharaibeh: Writing plays in prison

Interstate banking in US agreed

From Michael Binyon, Washington

United States banks, long held back from expansion by laws restricting them to a single state, have been given the go-ahead to form regional groupings which could lead to an important restructuring of the entire banking system that seems strangely antiquated by European standards.

The Supreme Court yesterday unanimously upheld new laws in Massachusetts and Connecticut which allow banks to merge with others anywhere in New England. Such regional consortia have also been approved in the south-east and are under consideration elsewhere. Under the new laws, Americans travelling to a different state would be able for the first time to cash cheques drawn on their home state bank.

To prevent themselves being swallowed up, the new banking consortia will be able to exclude the big banks with headquarters in New York, Texas and California. The new laws allow mergers within designated regions but ban all others.

Laws forbidding interstate banking were passed as a result of fears in the last century of the vast economic power that banking monopolies could wield, and have led to the proliferation of thousands of small banks.

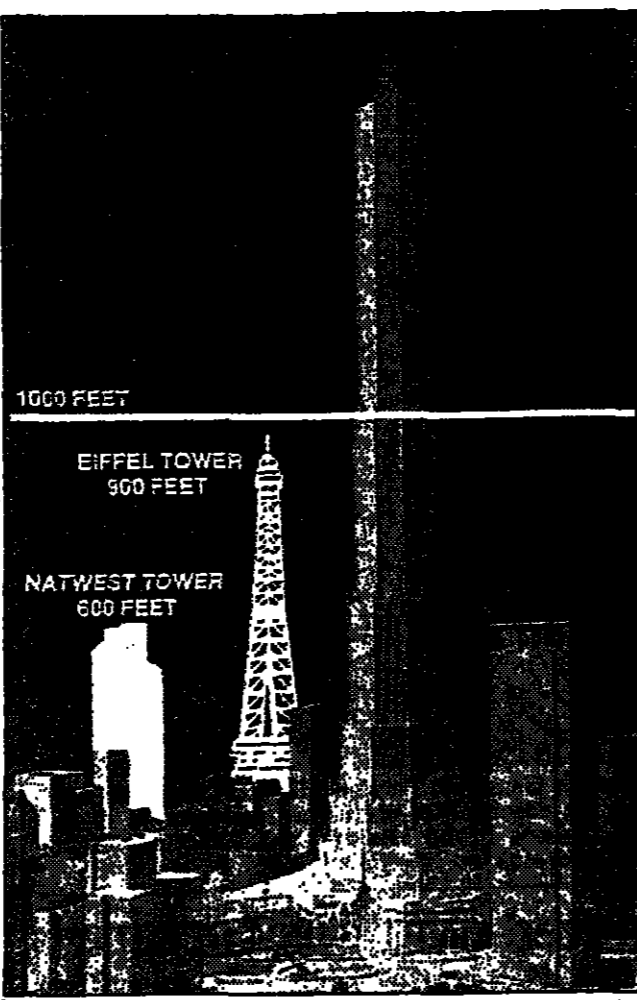
Obote opponent seeks British support

By William Pike

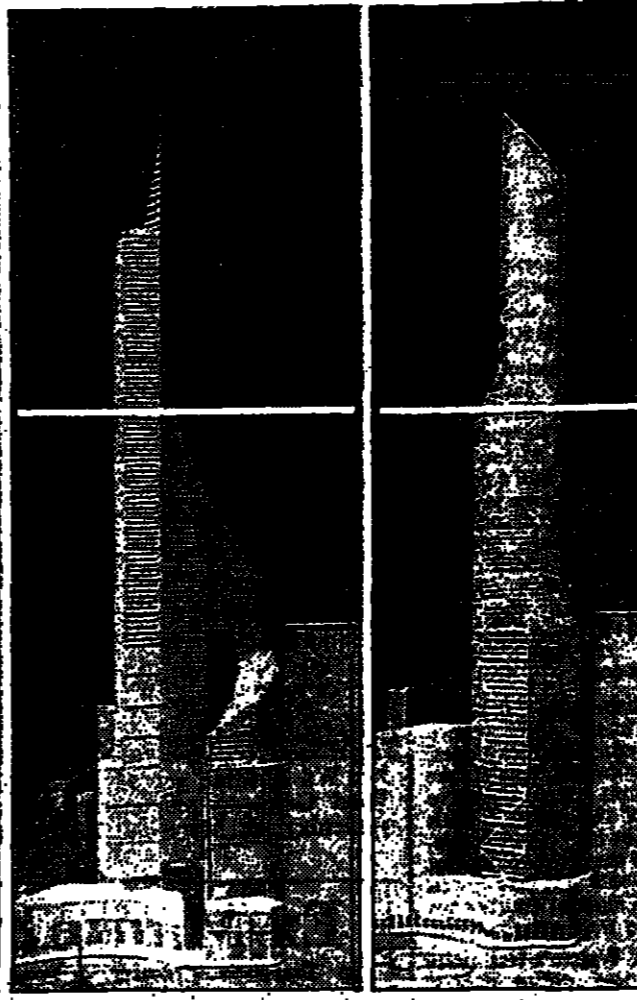
The Ugandan opposition leader, Mr Paul Ssemogerere, has flown to London to plead for British support in preserving democracy in his country.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, is meeting Mr Ssemogerere, the president of the Democratic Party, today.

"The situation is running out," Mr Ssemogerere said in an interview here. "It is not a question of saving the Democratic Party. It is a question of saving the country."



Models show the proposals for the world's tallest building: the rocket design of 137 storeys (left), a building with a stepped spiral terrace and a steel lattice structure (right).



Three buildings bidding to scrape the highest sky over New York

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

New York is renewing its bid to become the home of the world's tallest skyscraper, a distinction it lost to Chicago when the 110-storey Sears Tower opened there, its 1,454ft topping the World Trade Centre by 100ft.

Three proposals are being examined for the tallest building out of 14 entered by developers for the five-acre Coliseum site in New York.

The tallest is the 137-storey design by Eli Attis & Associates for the developer Donald Trump, who is also one of the lead tallest designs by Manly-Jahn of Chicago, which has

135-storeys. The cost of reaching the sky is likely to be more than \$1,000 million. A committee of four is studying the schemes for the site, which overlooks Central Park. The Coliseum itself, an exhibition centre, a 26-storey office block and an underground garage on the site would all have to go in most of the schemes submitted.

The Mayor of New York, Mr Ed Koch, described the Attis design as "something out of Flash Gordon". It would include an eight-storey atrium and restaurant and an observation deck.

A slender tower with wicket-like steel framework, by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, architects of the Sears Tower, is the second tallest design, and is backed by Sam LeFrak in partnership with the Galbreath-Rifkin Organisation.

Several bids for the site have exceeded \$300 million itself a new record of Manhattan real estate. In 1953 it was sold for just \$2 million.

When the site is redeveloped it is expected to realize at least \$40 million a year in property taxes. With cash from the sale of the site, this amount will be

used to improve public transport in the city.

Models of more than 20 skyscrapers by the New York firm of Kohn Pedersen Fox are featured in an exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects which opened yesterday.

It demonstrates how American architects have in recent years rejected the "flat-top" image of their immediate predecessors by introducing Gothic, Art Deco and Post-Modern features to enliven otherwise dull facades and rooftops. The exhibition closes on July 9.

Architects win EEC work permit

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

One of the European Community's longest running, record-breaking negotiating sagas came to an end last night when an agreement that architects in the EEC country could set up a practice in any other EEC country.

The proposal, first went down on the table in 1967, when the ideals of the founding fathers were still relatively fresh. As statesmen went about building the new Europe it was symbolically obvious that there was a need for architects to plan it.

From the beginning there were problems because nobody could agree exactly what qualifications were required for an individual to practise as an architect. The West Germans were particularly suspect because they spent only three years learning the trade, compared with the five year minimum everywhere else.

Things got no better when Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined in 1973. Quinine plans gathered dust on shelves with only the Italians showing any real enthusiasm for making progress during the short periods they held the EEC presidential chair.

The Greeks, who historically knew a thing or two about architecture, further complicated matters when they joined in 1981 because they wanted to include civil engineers in the same category. The argument dragged on.

This year, with the Italians back in the chair, work on the dossier began again in earnest. The West Germans began to compromise.

Yesterday, when the internal market council met, Lord Cockfield, the commissioner responsible, did a traditionally un-British thing and called for a vote to be held.

So a compromise was reached. The final directive runs to 38 pages and there is to be two-year period for setting up the necessary mechanism before the directive comes into effect.

Contradiction in \$3bn aid

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Famine in Africa has attracted unprecedented aid expected to reach \$3 billion by the end of the year, yet global starvation has never looked worse, Mr Eugene Whelan, Canadian president of the United Nations World Food Council, told the council's eleventh ministerial meeting in Paris yesterday.

Some 150 million people are now threatened by the food crisis in Africa, with 34 million severely at risk including nearly eight million in Ethiopia, he said.

"We are living in the midst of the greatest contradiction in our time... I, for one, find it appalling, in 1985, to be living side by side by preventable death. The single most important task for the World Food Council in the years ahead is to maintain the confidence that hunger can be eradicated."

Mr Whelan shared the view of Mr Edouard Saouma, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, who said that the most urgent problems were to ensure delivery - only half the foodstuffs had reached their destinations - and to solve transport problems before rains rendered remote areas inaccessible.

All the speakers yesterday at the four day conference stressed the importance of a long term solution. President Mitterrand indirectly blamed the US for having aggravated the plight of the world's poor when he said that one obstacle encountered by developing countries' struggle against famine and malnutrition was the "fluctuations in mood of a single currency which have just returned in a few moments several years of effort."

LONDON: The two RAF Hercules aircraft which have been airlifting famine relief supplies in Ethiopia since November are to be withdrawn at the end of September (Rodney Cowton writes).

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State for Overseas Development, told the Commons yesterday, however, that Britain was to provide a further £750,000 for food distribution within Ethiopia, and was ready to provide 10,000 tonnes of food when satisfied about transport and distribution arrangements.

Russians shrug off UK protest on patrol clash

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

British protests about the ramming of one of their military vehicles by a Soviet army lorry in East Germany last week had been merely "noted" by the Russians, it was understood here yesterday.

A British source said: "In the nature of things, we didn't expect any Russian explanation, let alone admission." The three Britons were on one of the patrols in East Germany which have been going on under the four-power agreements since the end of the war and under which the Russians are allowed similar rights in West Germany.

More towns blitzed in Gulf air war

Baghdad (AFP) - Iraqi planes bombed five Iranian towns and a military camp and "totally destroyed" a radar station in a wave of attacks, a military spokesman said here.

The statement came just before a strong explosion was heard in the Iraqi capital, which residents believed caused by an Iranian missile. (The Iranian news agency said a missile strike had been launched on Baghdad).

The Iraqi spokesman said 19 fighter-bombers attacked Abadan in the south and Ilam and Arzaku-Malekshahi in the centre-west of Iran. Hamadan, Bawah and a military camp at Robat were also hit.

East Germans welcome Fabius

East Berlin (Reuters) - The French Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, arrived here on a two-day visit that could boost trade between France and East Germany.

M Fabius, welcomed at Schönefeld airport with full military honours, spent nearly two hours in talks with Herr Erich Honecker which included East-West arms negotiations. He is the first head of government from the wartime Western allies to go to East Germany.

Mile bridge links Japan islands

The longest bridge in the East just under a mile, now links two of Japan's smaller islands - Shikoku, in the inland sea, and Awaji (David Watts writes). It is hoped that a second bridge will link Awaji and the main island of Honshu, but this has been held up for lack of funds. Once this final bridge is built all the Japanese islands will be linked.

During the bridge-opening ceremony, a light plane performing aerobatics plunged into the Naruto channel near the bridge and the pilot, an Osaka businessman, was killed.

Refugees return

Bangkok (AFP) - Thailand will soon begin repatriating 230,000 Cambodian refugees, forced across the border during Vietnam's dry season offensive against resistance camps, Mr Prasong Soonsri, Thailand's security chief, announced. He promised they would be repatriated when the area was really safe and not before.

Pay rise rejected

Rome (Reuters) - Italian voters have rejected a Communist Party proposal to pay a cost-of-living wage increase voted by the Government last year, according to partial results of a two-day referendum. With 80 per cent of the votes counted, ministry figures showed 46 per cent in favour and 54 per cent against.

THE ARTS: 1

Television Commercial capers

Advertising is a difficult business to examine on television. Participants, one feels, must be constrained from candour by the prospect of losing a present client or deterring possible business. Channel 4 is none the less tackling it in *The Art of Persuasion*, presented over six weeks by Professor Christopher Fraying, who teaches cultural history at the Royal College of Art. The first programme, *A Very Difficult Client*, was shown last night.

It was about the making of a commercial on Channel 4. You may remember that Joan Collins and the late Leonard Rossiter appeared in a very funny series, but not, it seems, memorable or persuasive enough from the product point of view. *The Creative Business* was the name of the agency attempting to replace this campaign by one which would make the product more successful and appealing to a younger audience. Present Channel 4 drinkers, it seems, are mostly women and over 35.

A small Italian town was descended on for the wing-ding. *The Creative Business* full of a confidence which would lessen rather in the presence of Mr Franco Bosisio. "I am a difficult client", he said with some pride, but leaving us in doubt about

whether the pride was in being difficult or in the professional know-how that compelled him to be so.

He proceeded to stick his ear in all over the place and loads of people stood around expectantly while discussions were held on vital issues such as whether the Cinzano umbrellas should be up or down.

It was meant to be an international advertisement and fears were expressed that some of the 150 extras Mr Bosisio had brought in from Milan might look too young to comply with British television regulations. The climax involved 1,000 people in the town square, speakers, balloons, much activity and, of course, much Cinzano. I managed to watch without being pished.

It was some time, at the event, before the first 30-second commercial appeared on television and six months before the first Guinness showing. Now it has been decided that the international idea is not on. The questions that lingered in the mind in this limited ad, so some undoubtedly, "kiss me" revelation of an obsessive part of one's world: how much did it cost? Candour failed here. Maybe Mr Bosisio was being difficult again.

Dennis Hackett

Concert Concertgebouw/Bernstein Barbican

A man who looks less likely to renounce life, or even just the centre of the stage, than Leonard Bernstein would be hard to find. This aspect apart, he seems to find the perfect mirror for his own personality in Mahler's music, and in the Ninth Symphony in particular. His performances have a famously visual dimension, of course, and those who paid £25 to see the agony and the acrobatics would not have been disappointed.

What the Concertgebouw, arguably the world's finest Mahler orchestra, thought of this one cannot say. Perhaps the players reflected that their fortes are just as thrilling, their ensembles as immaculate, and their strings as refined and silvery-tongued when they are under the comparatively staid direction of Bernard Haitink.

They did play superbly for Bernstein nevertheless, except for one tiny hiatus involving an errant harp at the first movement's conclusion. This is an orchestra seemingly incapable of making an ugly sound, even when projecting the second movement's mood of malignant spikiness, or responding awesomely to Bernstein's conception of the Rondo-Burlesque as a series of hurdles to be surmounted with increasing velocity and crushing power.

Moreover, when the textures thinned one could hear the quality of individual players in every department. The first movement's macabre gestures, for instance, were aptly matched by a remarkable nasal blend of horns and muted trombones, and the admirably secure and lyrical principal horn featured a little later in precisely-balanced duet with the flute that was a model of perfect chamber playing.

It was this first movement that seemed to bring the best out of Bernstein. The tempo was certainly very broad, but this allowed not only for some breathtaking dynamic effects (those gushing crescendos followed by sudden pianissimos were much attended to) but also for the well-pointed articulation of themes that play a crucial signposting role in this massive structure.

Concert

The second movement worked less well. Bernstein exaggerated tempo changes, leaned into the paradisiacal trills and seemed blithely unconcerned with overall shape. The fact that he left large sections completely uncondoned (offering the leader a celebratory handshake at the movement's close) seemed to symbolize exactly his superficial approach.

With the final adagio, however, his overwhelming sense of theatre was irresistible. The build-up in intensity was effective enough, but the disintegration from a raptorially sonorous climax was magnificently handled. Those magnificent strings swooped downwards on the perfectly-judged sand, the pace slowed almost to a standstill, the sound diminished to an electrifying silence. Then a red handkerchief fluttered on the podium: a signal that the maestro had shed a manly tear, and we should now applaud.

Richard Morrison

London débuts

As the Israeli pianist Ophra Verushalim's recital coincided with another, I have to confess to reviewing it from a recording provided by the promoter, from which it is nevertheless plain that this artist is well equipped to tackle the most demanding music from the Romantic repertoire. Her performance of Chopin's B flat minor Sonata was conceived on the grandest scale though it was also one lacking in spontaneity, as epitomized in the Funeral March, which passed by at a brisk stroll yet without losing a trace of its dignity in the process. Verushalim also shaped her music with the utmost care, ensuring that two Liszt Transcendental Studies sounded cogent as well as dazzlingly virtuosic. But for me she was at her best in Schubert's *Drei Klavierstücke*, showing a sensitivity and mellowness necessarily absent from the more exuberant music in her programme.

By contrast the American pianist Zoe Erisman seemed rather ill at ease in Prokofiev's Fourth Sonata, a work demanding the crispest of techniques. Here it sounded altogether too flabby, though Erisman showed she has the necessary sheer strength in her reading of Shehderin's Piano Sonata.

Stephen Pettitt

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Galleries

A natural talent for symbolism

A Salute to British Surrealism 1930-1950

Blond Fine Art

Ceri Richards: The Lyrical Vision

Gillian Jason

Francis Bacon Marlborough Fine Art

Alfred Whiteley Odette Gilbert

Michael Sandie Fischer Fine Art

In certain respects it is remarkable that Surrealism did not make more of a dent on the British art scene in the Thirties

in others it is surprising that it got as far as it did. This apparent contradiction has a lot to do with the general discrepancy between what British artists want to do and what British collectors, private and institutional, want to buy.

For such painterly inclinations Surrealism would seem to be a ready-made vehicle. But unfortunately it was generally regarded in Britain as some new-fangled foreign subversion, and, though the 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition, which had on its committee such notables as Henry Moore, Herbert Read, Paul Nash, Humphrey Jennings and McKnight Kauffer, achieved quite a succès de scandale, the British artists who contributed to it and others who followed in their wake continued to be viewed with suspicion.

general label of Surrealism an amazing variety of talents and approaches.

And most of it seems very British indeed. A certain amount, naturally, dispenses the small change of international Surrealism, evoking moonlit landscapes of dream or peopled with amoeboid creatures that seem to surge out of anyone's unconscious at the slightest provocation.

There are minor but telling works by Moore, Nash and that other stalwart of the British chapter, Roland Penrose. And there are some very telling works by almost entirely unfamiliar names, such as Reuben Mednikoff, who has a highly original way with robot-like creatures halfway between Lager and S. G. Hume.

On the whole, though, it remains true that the British Surrealists did best when they moved away from this alarming avant-garde-sounding categorization. Ceri Richards, for instance, who is represented here and turns up in fuller force at the unfailingly interesting Gillian Jason Gallery in Camden Town (until July 26) in a one-man show subtitled *The Lyrical Vision*, where his transformative images of plants that might be birds that might be landscapes (and are probably all at the same time) flutter and flower on all sides with something so unconfined that it must be joy.

Francis Bacon too, child of Thirties Surrealism as in many senses he was, while always carefully avoiding the label, is adding currently to the staggering achievement of his retrospective at the Tate with a show at Marlborough Fine Art (until July 31) which includes striking early works like *Landscape, South of France (1952)*, one of his very few "pure" landscapes which is yet full of indefinable menace, as well as the most recent, the extraordinary "poster" (actually a major painting) for a Van Gogh show which may or may not happen in Arles in 1988, and *Painting March 1985*, another of the new series of landscape/interiors which have turned away from direct confrontation with the human figure. Symbolist painting of the most intense kind, where you may not feel at all sure you



Something for the small hours: Edith Rimmington's *Oneiroscopist*

know what you are looking at, but have no doubt that whatever order of reality it belongs to is just as intensely real as any you know through the direct evidence of your own two eyes.

Alfred Whiteley shares the same kind of other-worldly atmosphere, though technically his approach could hardly be



Merry-go-round horses or living flesh and blood? - detail from Alfred Whiteley's *Dad and the Black Pudding Man*

more different. In Bacon everything is on the verge of dissolution, turning into something else almost before it can be caught and fixed on the canvas. Whiteley's curious visions, on the contrary, are held in a timeless moment of monumental immobility, like the figures on a Grecian urn: even the painting which, in subject-matter, comes closest to Bacon country, *Dad and the Black Pudding Man*, an evocation of the slaughter-house in which his father worked, manages to endure with its cool formalism so that for a moment we do not realize what the painting is about, and even when we do the impression obstinately remains of men manhandling merry-go-round horses rather than living flesh and blood.

The paintings referring to the First World War, *Wounded Flyer* and *The Fallen Flyer*, have a similarly strange air of showing grown-ups playing children's games rather than being directly engaged in matters of life and death. The Neue Sachlichkeit clarity of outline in Whiteley's work helps to create a dreamlike quality which eludes him, unconsciously I suspect, with the Surrealists. But, whether because of his long isolation from the practising art world (at 57 this is his first one-man show) or because of a natural, untarnished singularity of vision, Whiteley remains

almost defiantly his own man, perfectly possible to find mystifying but quite impossible to ignore. The paintings, most of his product during the last 10 years, are at the Odette Gilbert Gallery until July 5.

Nor must we forget sculpture. Michael Sandie, germanic as in many ways he is, what with his obsessive interest in Götterdämmerung and Armageddon, also belongs very noticeably to the good old British Symbolist tradition. His latest show, at Fischer Fine Art until June 21, contains sculptures of a vaguely memorial type which it is very interesting to compare, in their gloomy fatalism, with the kindred but more definitely heroic works of Charles Serjeant Jagger now at the Imperial War Museum. Jagger celebrated, with becoming sobriety, the consummation of a great cause; Sandie seems cast down because there are no great, brave causes left. But the images of his despondency are amazing: especially the brand-new standing figure which tellingly manages to evoke in one piece every war from Troy to Vietnam. His drawings make the connection with the Symbolist movement even more explicit; there is even one which refers clearly to Böcklin's *Isle of the Dead*. An uncomfortable talent certainly, but a major talent nevertheless.

John Russell Taylor

Festivals

Wisdom without pretension

Mieczyslaw Horoszowski Snape Maltings

One of the newest, yet also oldest, of Aldeburgh specialities is the nonagenarian pianist Mieczyslaw Horoszowski, who returned on Sunday night for his third consecutive festival, and began a memorable recital with Beethoven's D major Sonata, Op 28. The work is obviously one he feels at home in, though it is characteristic of his poised musical personality that the result of intimate acquaintance should be more respect than affection. He knows the music profoundly, but he is never knowing about it.

The later variations of the

slow movement, for instance, showed his ability to communicate the marvelousness of the music very simply, without appearing to patronise either Beethoven or his audience. There was a perfect grace to his moulding of the melody, subtly lifted in its rhythm to give the hint of a continuing astonishment. Then the wit of the scherzo was delightfully judged, with the bass murmuring in its sleep in response to the brilliantly clear treble. The finale, though, was the greatest miracle. In his balancing of short phrases Mr Horoszowski presented the movement as a sequence of smoothly modelled questions and answers, an Olympian examination sheet in which every possible eventuality had been considered. This was wisdom worn with the least possible pretension, and cheer-

fully dismissing itself with a coda of extraordinary light-fingered joy.

Mozart's B flat Sonata, K 570, was again the occasion for a luminous performance, one from which the years appeared to have bleached away anything inessential. The first movement was a game of motifs each with its own colour and character; the finale moved to a witty checkmate. Then at last Mr Horoszowski returned to the programme laid down for him (his earlier changes had given the evening a nice spontaneity), and played music by Chopin, the C sharp minor Polonaise, and the B minor Scherzo, proving that his virtuosity is almost as amazingly preserved as his musicality is distilled.

Paul Griffiths

Capricorn/Knussen Almeida Theatre

The Almeida Festival, 30 days in Islington which look set to offer the most eccentric, brash and perhaps most stimulating musical experiences in London this summer, was launched with an exhilarating lunchtime extravaganza by the ensemble Capricorn.

The festival's initial preoccupation is with American experimentalism throughout this century. These concerts are grouped under the picturesque heading "At the tomb of Charles Ives", a title borrowed from the first piece to be played, Lou Harrison's 1963 homage, making haunting use of alto trombone solos, oriental-like jangles and two different tuning systems jarring against each other, evocatively set the mood for what followed.

What did follow was a dazzling demonstration of why Ives earns such honours. A score of pithy tone-poems for a "pit band" combination of 15 players were by turns mystical,



Charles Ives: sly wit with a straight face

brassy or folkily gauche, but always unpredictable. The impact of Ives's audacious collisions of disparate elements, his suddenly menacing climaxes and his gloriously debunking endings - all these seemed intensified by the hard-edged chamber orchestration.

Several were receiving British premieres, but it is impossible to think of such fun showpieces as the Four Ragtime Dances or

the Sets for Theatre Orchestra being ignored in the future. Oliver Knussen's direction ensured performances of great character and virtuosity, bringing out Ives's sly wit without losing the essential straight-faced presentation.

Conlon Nanarrow, the 73-year-old American who has recently acquired a cult popularity after decades of decent obscurity, was present to hear British premieres of four early works. The *Sonatina para piano*, brilliantly played by Yvar Mikhashof and Michael McCandless, revealed an anarchic sort of mind let loose on Bach and the blues to entertaining effect, whereas the works for instrumental ensembles, though intriguingly constructed, seemed pale and conventional beside the surrounding Ives.

Nanarrow, however, receives more thorough attention later in this enterprising festival which, incidentally, added a seven-hour performance of non-stop American piano music as a modest coda to this opening concert.

Richard Morrison

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Advertisement for 'Place des Antiquaires' featuring a large image of a building facade and text describing the location and services of the antique market.

Text-based advertisement for 'Place des Antiquaires' providing details about the location, services, and contact information for the Société des Centres Commerciaux.

Vertical advertisement on the far left edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'TS: 1' and 'capets'.

The judgement of history

Marcel Berlins talks to the great judge Lord Devlin, who presided over some of the most important cases in British history - including the murder trial of the century

It was a gladiatorial contest that never took place between two men he disliked - and Patrick Devlin has remained fascinated by it for nearly 30 years.

In the dock of the Old Bailey's Number One Court stood John Bodkin Adams, a portly, anxious Eastbourne doctor, accused of poisoning 81-year-old Edith Morrell, one of his patients, and by implication many other victims. In the row occupied by Queen's Counsel blustered the equally well-rounded figure of the prosecutor, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, the Attorney-General, known satirically and justifiably as Bullying Manner.

There was a jury, of course, and an exceptionally able defence counsel but for Mr Justice Devlin, chosen to preside over what the press had nominated as the trial of the century, it was a fight between "Reggie" and the Doctor. For Adams a guilty verdict meant - this was 1957 - the gallows. For the vain, disagreeable Manningham-Buller the trial was a public opportunity to further his insatiable political ambitions.

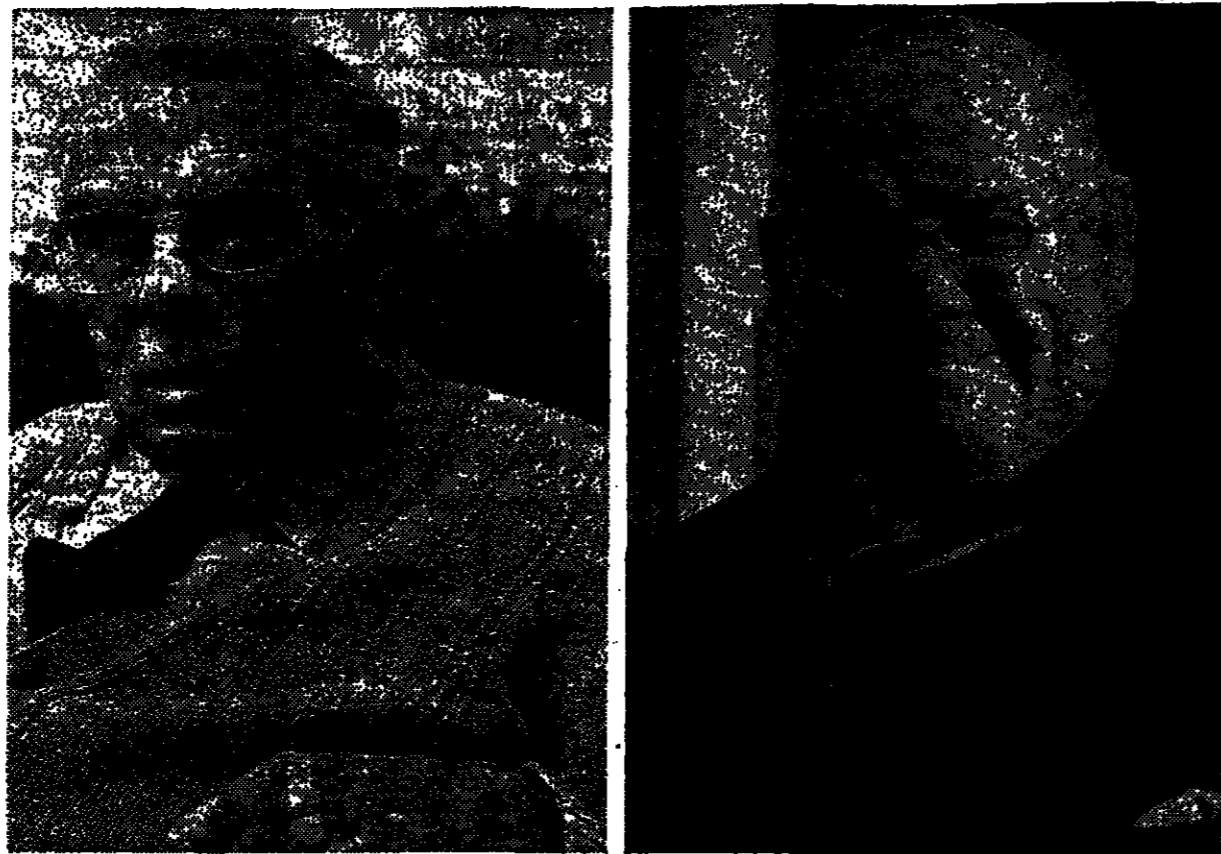
6 I certainly don't believe Adams was a mass murderer

The rest of the country followed every word of the case with a passion that no subsequent trial, not even that of the Moors Murderers, has surpassed.

Was Doctor Bodkin Adams a mass murderer, killing off his elderly patients to obtain the legacies he had persuaded them to leave in their wills, or was he the innocent victim of one of the most savage campaigns of vilification and prejudice ever conducted by British newspapers?

The jury said not guilty but it was a verdict which failed to satisfy anyone. The debate has continued ever since but only in the last two years, since the death of the doctor at the age of 84, has it been able to surface without the threat of a libel suit.

For a judge to write a book about a sensational case which he has tried is itself highly unusual. That the judge should be one of the greatest judicial minds of the century, not merely repeating the story but re-examining all the evidence afresh, is an extraordinary bonus. *Easting the*



Lord Devlin and Dr John Bodkin Adams, the central figure in his most celebrated trial

Passing, by Lord Devlin, is published on Thursday.

In the end Dr Adams won his "not guilty" verdict comfortably. Manningham-Buller's mismanagement of the prosecution case, the inept performance in the witness box of the main medical witness and the lucky discovery of nurses' notebooks containing vital information allowed defence counsel Geoffrey Lawrence QC to take the ultimate gamble - not to put the defendant into the witness box to give evidence. It worked. The judge's summing up suggested that there was insufficient evidence to convict and the jury quickly agreed.

Would Adams have been found guilty if Manningham-Buller had presented the prosecution more adeptly? Lord Devlin is cautious. "It is impossible to say for certain. I think it would have made it more difficult for Lawrence to decide not to put Dr Adams in the witness box and, of course, if he had given evidence the case would have been very different. ... It would have been fascinating to watch, but I don't think Reggie would have got the better of Adams."

Did Devlin believe Adams was a mass murderer. It's possible he hastened the end of some of his patients. I think I would perhaps best describe him as a greedy mercenary-killer.

Lord Devlin will be 80 later this year and it is more than 20 years since he left the centre stage of the English judiciary to pursue the many activities that have occupied him since. At 42, he was the youngest judge to be appointed this century. The consensus

was that he was the finest legal brain of his time and a brilliant judge. He was entrusted with difficult and sensitive enquiries, like that into the Nyasaland disturbances of 1959. It seemed then that no judicial office was beyond him. In 1960 he was promoted to the Court of Appeal and only a year later to the House of Lords.

Suddenly, at the age of 58, he quit. He was not ill. He was not taking up a lucrative appointment elsewhere. To stunned legal establishment that venerates longevity in its judges, Devlin's decision was incomprehensible and traumatic.

Many years later Lord Reid, who sat as a law lord for more than a quarter century and was himself regarded as one of the finest judges of the century, remarked to me: "Patrick Devlin could have been the greatest among us. Devlin never publicly explained his reasons."

6 I retired because I found the Lords so utterly boring

Last week he lifted the veil. "I just found it so utterly boring," he told me. "I was extremely happy as a judge of first instance. I was never happy as an appellate judge. I went to the House of Lords from the Court of Appeal thinking it would be better. It was worse. I was lucky: I got several interesting cases. But for the most part the work was dreary beyond belief. All those revenue cases. ..."

How does he feel about his decision now? "It was freedom. I've never regretted it."

He emphasizes that his strictures are not to be regarded as criticism of his fellow judges, whom he likes and admires, or in any sense a rebellion against the law or the legal system. What was at fault, he thought, was the procedure. "It improved now but in my time our appellate procedure was absolutely stultifying. I thought the whole process was wrong. This interminable oral argument is a great waste of time."

He has consistently called for a system in which the judges read all the papers beforehand, including the barristers' submissions on the law, so that the oral proceedings in court are kept to a minimum, limited to testing, probing and clarifying the written arguments.

There was, perhaps, a contributing factor to his decision to leave. Devlin was generally regarded as a future Lord Chief Justice, but Lord Parker had been appointed at a time when Devlin was thought to be too young and inexperienced at the highest level. Then, in 1962, Lord Denning, senior to and more experienced than Devlin, became Master of the Rolls. It looked as if the way to the top was barred for some time.

Without a hint of regret or resentment Lord Devlin admits he would have liked to have held one of the high offices. "My feeling on law reform has always been that it is the procedures, more than the substantive law, that need alteration and as Lord Chief Justice or head of a division

you're listened to more and you might have an effect. That would have been satisfying. I could have stayed on as a Law Lord and taken part in debates on legal matters, but that way one wouldn't have got very far affecting procedural change." In fact, Lord Devlin has never made a speech in the House of Lords and does not intend to break his duck.

Devlin never completely fitted the mould of an English judge anyway. Judges are not supposed to be intellectuals. They may be brilliant lawyers, able penetratingly to interpret a statute or create a right where none existed before. But very few have been deep thinkers.

6 I became fascinated with Woodrow Wilson the evangelist

Devlin has always been tempted by the philosophical. His rousing debate on law and morality with Professor H. L. Hart in the early 1960s, conducted at arms' length through books and lectures, remains the high point of judicial intellectualism this century. Books on the jury system and, more recently, on the role of the English judge confirm Lord Devlin's status as the judge/philosopher of our times.

His breadth of learning was demonstrated further in 1974 with the publication of a highly-praised biography of United States President Woodrow Wilson, *Too Proud to Fight*. It was the fruit of a life-long interest, amounting almost to an obsession.

"It was 1918, about the time I was becoming politically conscious. I was 13 and found it totally incomprehensible that there should ever have been a war. And there was this great evangelist coming from the other side of the Atlantic saying that there would be no more war and the world would be made safe for democracy. I didn't know anything about the man but the idea was immensely attractive."

Lord Devlin is said that he never wrote that second volume. But that seems to be one of his very few disappointments in life. His marriage to Madeleine has been long and happy and their exquisite house in the Wiltshire countryside is under perpetual siege from their six children and 21 grandchildren.

At 79 Lord Devlin's face, once thought so austere and severe, is animated and full of humour, almost puckish. He is a little deaf and his stoop is a little more pronounced than it was. But life in so-called retirement is no less crammed with activity than when he was at the centre of England's legal world. The lawyers and judges may still argue about what might have been if Devlin had stayed but it's not a subject that interests him in the least.

Easting the Passing: The Trial of John Bodkin Adams, by Patrick Devlin (Bodley Head, £12.95).

Red Sea wreck of a sailor man

Early in January, the small cutter *Doreen Beatrice* was running before strong winds in the Red Sea. Her engine was useless and a vital reefing line had parted; the man at the helm, a 73-year-old Englishman called Sydney Durrant, was heading back to Port Sudan in the hope of repairs.

Night fell before he could make harbour, and the 27ft boat hit the reef at the entrance, with the full force of the northerly gale behind her.

The skipper, escaped, and returned with helpers in a harbour dinghy to strip off all the valuables they could. Later, local fishermen looted the rest, including the engine. When morning came, Syd Durrant was ashore, homeless, exhausted, surrounded by the few possessions he had left in the world. Only the ship's log, rescued from the wreck, remained to tell him that before the night's disaster, *Doreen Beatrice* had brought him 27,505 miles, nine-tenths of the way around the world from his home port of Newhaven. Now, she would never sail another mile. "I feel," he said, "like a fish out of water."

It was the start of my own, much tamer, adventure: in these last harbours of the Canaries, November sees a great flock of transatlantic-bound yachts tied to the harbour wall, waiting for the North-East Trades to set in steadily enough to blow them to the Caribbean for Christmas. It is the yachtman's commuter-route.

Doreen Beatrice occupied a stretch of wall next to a big steel keel on which I was a junior crew, and Syd had become something of a curiosity among the brown, cheerful community of yachtsies. Every body knew about him: a retired salesman, a widower, with no sailing experience, a man who had lost his wife and occupation within a year, and reacted by selling his house, buying a boat, calling it after his late wife, taking a few navigation lessons, and setting off to sail singlehanded around the world.

"I never was one to sit around", he would mutter, working on some part of his boat in the sunshine. "No point staying around thinking about it. Do it." After a bad Channel gale and a complete electrical failure, he had made it this far, and was preparing for the long haul to Barbados. His boat was excellent - a new Vancouver 27 - and he seemed very enough; but the yacht was small, and he was not young. We thought about him a lot, on the way over, and worried a little.

We need not have. Syd made Barbados before us, and met us in a pair of terrible floral shorts, full of advice on the cheapest shops and fuel. I flew home, soon afterwards but his letters, arriving every six months, kept five English winters warm for me.

After an exciting Caribbean season (griving aboard the winning boat in the big race from Guadeloupe in Antigua Week) he settled for the hurricane season at Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands. Many yachts did. When the killer hurricanes David and Frederick were forecast, they all cleared out quickly to a safer hurricane-hole; except *Doreen Beatrice*. Her engine was ashore, in many pieces, with a faulty gasket. In this grave danger, Syd wrote: "I hauled myself into the mangroves at the end of the harbour, put three anchors out and stern-lines to heavy mangrove trees. The eye of hurricane David was forecast to pass to the north of the islands, and

my anchors were sited accordingly, but a few hours before it reached us it altered course and a weather report then advised it would pass south! The wind direction was now to be reversed; I hurriedly got out my little rubber dinghy, hauled up my three anchors, and re-ited this operation. I caused swellings in both groins within 24 hours: a double hernia!"

Between hernias and hurricanes, he and the boat survived in reasonable order. Syd had his operation, and four weeks later hauled the anchor up again, cautiously, to sail for Panama. Off the Dominican coast he was chased by a motorboat containing five or six unhealthy-looking individuals. He escaped in splendidly traditional style, by cramming on an extra staysail and putting the boat on a fast reach.

After anchoring at Contadora Island (amid heavy security; the Shah of Iran was still there in bitter exile) the little boat made for the Galapagos. As the skipper slept, 2,000 miles from land, a strong impact flung him from his bunk, scrambling on to deck, he found that a whale had apparently nudged the boat, knocking off the rudder and destroying the self-steering.

It took 76 days to make it to the Marquesas for repairs; he steered by hand and with adjustments of the sails, heaving-to for rest at night, running dangerously short of food and water. After the repairs, disaster struck again: making for Tahiti, both sails were blown out during a three-day storm. I didn't have time to think I would die, said Syd, "but I say my prayers at times like that."

Sailing confidently on, he gained another command, landing at Sydney, New South Wales, and moving north to Cairns: Here a typhoon season of 1982 delayed him over his 70th birthday. Then he upped anchor and made direct for Singapore, arriving on August 14 1983. A "gentle" period sailing by day up the Malacca Straits, to Eort Klang and Penang and the Thai border, led to a westward hop to Sri Lanka for Christmas. His March letter came from Moim-basa.

Then, approaching the Arabian shore, he found that the Gulf War was interfering with his plans, and the British consul advised him not to go beyond Muscat. And so to the Red Sea and disaster at Port Sudan. "And terribly sadly, my world cruise has ended."

The whole voyage, until the wreck, was made with a modest equipment in the Channel might have - indeed, with far less than many do have. Syd had no satellite navigator, no two-way radio (ironically, as his seven years' seafaring and wartime experience had been as a big-ship wireless operator), no fridge, no windlass to haul up the anchors, no outboard motor on his rubber dinghy. This had more to do with finance than with any romantic machismo. "If I went round again", he said firmly, "I would make one or two changes."

But he won't go round again. Syd Durrant wrote his account of the wreck from Larnaca, in Cyprus, where he was flown afterwards; he thinks he will stay there for good now. On the telephone, chirpy as ever, he praised the cost of living there, the sunshine, and the friends he has already accumulated. "I've got a little flat. The boat was my home, really; I haven't got anywhere else. I can't afford another boat, because the insurance lapsed somewhere in the Pacific; but I've got my pension. And I might write a book about it all. Do you think people might be interested?"

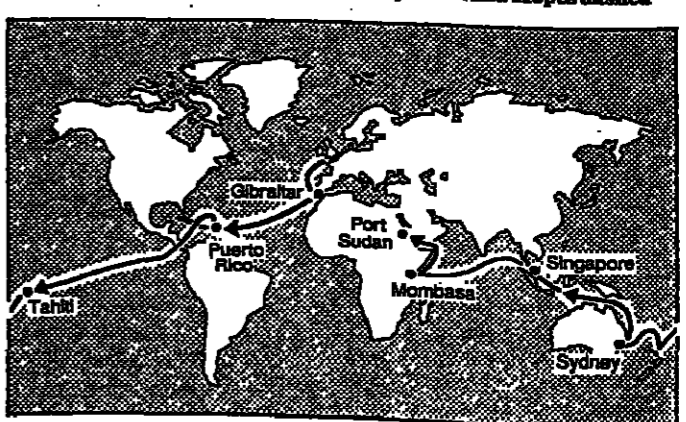
Libby Purves



Syd Durrant: Hopes dashed

SHIP'S LOG

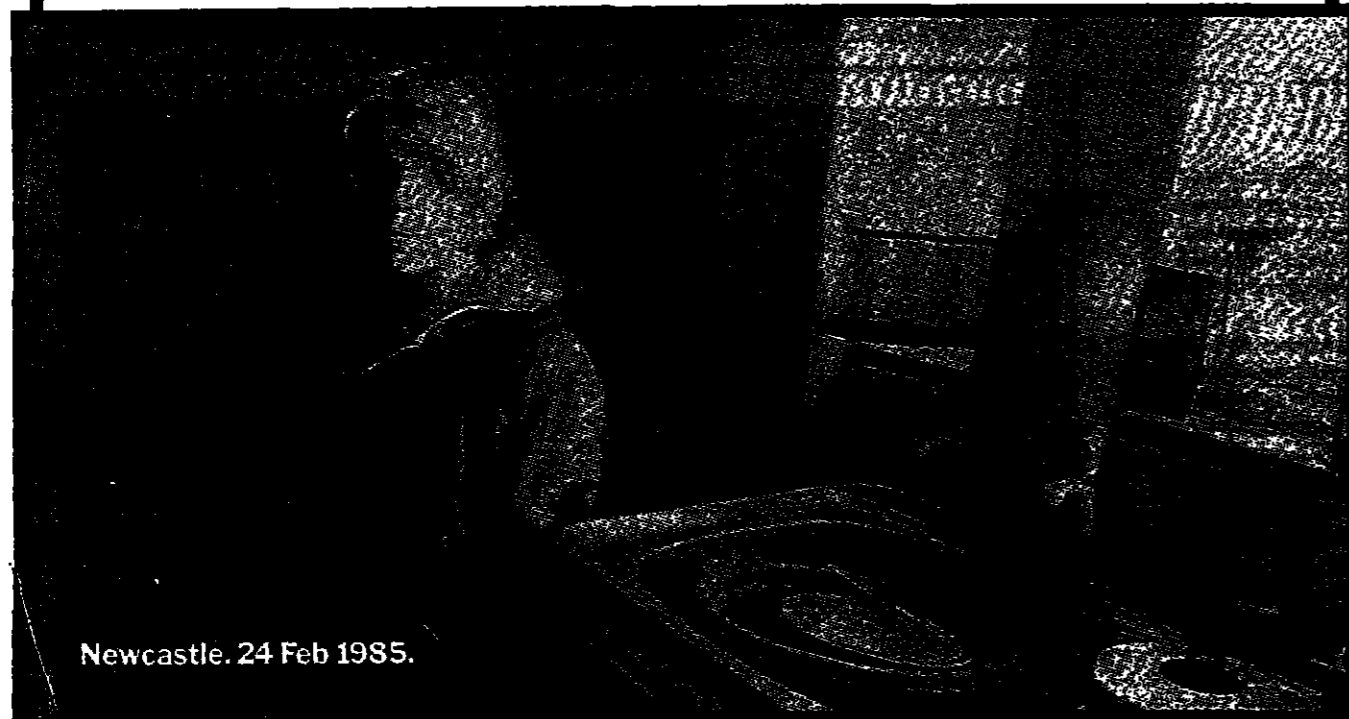
24 June 78: Sailed from Newhaven, Sussex
5 Aug 78: Departure from Falmouth, Cornwall
27 Aug 78: At Gibraltar
11 Sep: At Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria
20 Nov: Depart across Atlantic
18 Dec: Barbados
1878: Island-hopping in Caribbean
Dec 78: Through Panama Canal. Then to Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, New Caledonia
Autumn 82: Sydney, Australia
14 Aug 83: Arrive Singapore
Autumn 83 - mid-1984: Cruise via Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, to Mozambique; depart for Red Sea
5 Jan 85: Port Sudan. Departing from Port Sudan, wrecked



TOMORROW

Will Ian Botham become the first cricket millionaire? A report on how commercial spin-offs are making some players rich

"Course it's nothing like as bad as it was back in the 'thirties."



Newcastle. 24 Feb 1985.

The picture above was taken last February in Newcastle.

It was not set up or reconstructed. We simply asked our photographer to record what he found in the cities of Britain.

Elaine is 13 years old. She is just one of hundreds of thousands of children in Britain today living in conditions that create physical hardship, family tensions and worse.

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The Children's Society. Needed now more than ever.

Keep cool in a crisis

TALKBACK

From Judy Porter, 3 Parkwood Road, Wimbledon.
I too, like Julia Orange (*The Times*, May 27) am "the kind of loon that exposes her child to obvious danger".

When my child was 12 weeks old, I somehow knocked a jug of boiling water over his legs. As I am a science teacher, I had attended a first aid course and in the back of my memory was the knowledge that in order to cool the skin I had to hold the scalded skin under cold running water for at least 10 minutes.

It was the longest 10 minutes of my life. He ended up with minimal blisters on his foot. The length of time that the skin is cooled is crucial. Please print this and help others.

Eye boggling

From Betty Barclay, 2 Northland Drive, Winchester.
Is replacing a contact lens at table (Laurie Taylor, June 5), any worse than a cricketer adjusting his box in full view of the crowd and TV millions?

Marriage lines

From Graham Blacktop, 52 Shepherd's Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
Serena Sutcliffe (Comment, May 24) need suffer no longer at what she describes as the "appalling order" of the cases for matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer. That order is reversed in the Alternative Service Book Marriage, and

paragraph six seems to fit her agnostic preferences precisely. No doubt her vicar has already called round.

Dirty line

From Monica Gough, 18 Smithwell Lane, Hoptonstall, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

On reading the amusing article "Have you met my machine?" (*The Times*, June 3), I was reminded of a phone call I had from a young friend whose work often takes him to the world's trouble spots.

The line for this call was very bad, and I inquired anxiously: "Are you in the Lebanon?" "No", he replied calmly, "I'm in the bath, at home".

Sound advice

From Lenny Keight, 82 Abingdon Road, Walton, Liverpool.
After reading Laurie Taylor's report on contemporary etiquette, I felt a reply in defence of the Walkman personal hi-fi users was long overdue. I personally use my Walkman to enjoy the freedom from the throngs of misfits and religious fanatics who seem to haunt the public transport system. Personally I prefer the company of Debus or Bruce Springsteen on my journey to and from work, to that of insane practical jokers like those mentioned in the article.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 667)

ACROSS
1 Lenses (6)
2 Trick (4)
3 Become eventually (3,2)
4 Continuous (3,4)
5 Women's underwear (8)
6 Profit (4)
7 For example (7,6)
8 Sound reproduction (2,2)
9 Lamentations prophet (8)
10 Cowboy display (5)
11 Employed (4)
12 Indication (6)

DOWN
1 Loaded (5)
2 Hat (3)
3 Delicacies (13)
4 Pitch (4)
5 Appeal to (7)
6 Leader (10)
7 Five event contact (10)

12 Glimpse (4)
13 Scots hill (4)
14 Personal property (7)

15 Ebanat (5)
16 Money reserve (4)
17 Manipulate fraudulently (3)

SOLUTION TO No 666
ACROSS: 1 Asset 2 Facility 3 Drama 8 Outman 10 Comedian 11 Cue 13 Merchandise 17 Head 18 Denounce 21 Break up 22 Stick 23 Airman 24 Yield
DOWN: 1 Address 2 Span 3 Teardrop 4 Thomas 5 Kempis 6 City 7 Yankov 7 Yankov 12 Odiously 14 Element 15 Phobia 16 Perked 19 Noise 20 Akin

FASHION by Suzy Menkes



Far left: Roland Klein's black and white spot elongated silk blazer, £329. Silk top, £129, and striped pleated skirt £129, black and white only from Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street, W1, Setridges, W1 and J R Taylor, St Anne's

Left centre: Bellville Sassoon's Miro print silk satin blouse, candy pink long-line linen jacket and chrome yellow linen skirt, £538 the three-piece outfit in combinations of colours. Bright pink straw hat £92, and costume jewellery all from Bellville Sassoon, 73 Pavilion Road, SW1 and Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge

Centre: Hermes jockey cap print in bright colours on a pure silk wrap coat dress, £540. Straw hat with printed silk band. Both from Hermes, 155 New Bond Street, W1

Right: Gail Hoppen's café au lait self-spotted silk wrap dress, £218. Freddie Fox's Nescafé shiny straw boater, with shallow crown and biscuit brown quilt, £177. Both from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1

Foreground: Krizia's zoo print of animals on a cobalt blue bias cut dress, £325. Straw bowler in matching colours, £58. Both from the Designer Room, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1

All pearl chokers, studs and earrings by Givency from Bijoux of Bond Street, 7 Old Bond Street, W1 Illustrations by JOHN BABBAGE in homage to Raoul Dufy

RACING SILKS

THEY'RE OFF!

And those distinctive racing colours are already standing out as they race down this first furlong.

I'm picking out Bellville Sassoon's bright pink, worn with yellow this season instead of their more familiar turquoise. Jan Van Velden's spots are spurring ahead, neck and knees with Roland Klein's coin dots, and more spots from Gail Hoppen and Chelsea Design.

I see Fashion Prints gaining ground quite dramatically now

—abstract splashes and squiggles and bedding blooms from Caroline Charles. There are some patriotic red, white and blue flowers against that splendid green turf and a lot of black coming up along the brights. Cotton chintz, so popular in the Tattersall's stand, is fading here among the racing silks.

Talking to people in the paddock before the race, I was reminded of a major change of course here this season. There's a wide angle at the shoulder and some sharp corners before we come into the straight skirt.

Just round the first bend, it's Jacques Azagury's filly in the lead, shorter and sexier than most of the other contenders. Bruce Oldfield's moving up now on the inside. This well-groomed colt with the long legs is very much the royal favourite at the moment.

It's Oldfield, Azagury, Klein, Murray Arbed is running a strong race in his vibrant colours. Arbed has been working with Freddie Fox, who has trained so many race winners, not least for HM the Queen. His Quill Feather and Low Straw Crown were front runners at last week's Derby.

Now here's a surprise! The Emanuels are closing on the

leaders with Call Me Madam, an elegant three-quarter jacket and skirt. You'll remember that Puffball Gown was a big winner for them four years ago, but they haven't had much of a showing since then.

There's a lot of money riding on this race. The boutiques are talking about £500 on a single outfit, but the average punter will probably be paying out about half that.

I'm seeing some changes now as they come round for the second circuit. Here's Hermes, a well-known name to horsey fans, often backed by the Queen herself, now very much favoured by the younger crowd with Jockey Cap, a stylish print on a white silk coat dress.

The foreign contingent are offering a strong challenge here to the traditional English runners. Krizia, a favourite with Italian racegoers, is making a splash of colour with Animal Print. Valentino, another big international name, is in there with Bias Cut.

Well-shaped Withers and a Lot of Leg are showing up well this season, leaving the longer fuller skirts bunched back at the starting line.

We were talking about the soft going after the rain, but this

is not having any significant effect on the fashion race. High Heels is the favourite with the ladies, along with White Leather, although some of the younger set are going for Patent Slipper.

Now it's Bellville. Oldfield, Charles. I saw a sudden flash of Genny there — another Italian runner. We haven't seen much of those big Chantilly names Givency and Saint Laurent, but Chanel's pale silks are stirring ahead.

Janice Wainwright is making a brave dash with a splash of very strong colour: chrome yellow, pimento and peacock.

Hermes is still in there, facing a strong challenge now from Chelsea Design Company. Here's a dark horse, a real thoroughbred, with an owner who shies away from publicity but has a sporting chance with Navy Spot and Chintz Print.

Coming round the last bend: Bellville, Klein, Oldfield; Caroline Charles is dropping back; two furlongs to go and Oldfield is flagging, is Bellville going to do it? There's a challenge from English Style on the inside on the last stretch.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the winner of the 1985 Summer Occasion Stakes is English Style, sired by Molyneux out of Amies, owned by Sheikh Abdullah Al Asprey and trained hard by the Princess of Wales.

The earth mother expands

Laura Ashley has acquired an enormous new flagship store in the heart of London's West End and that makes the reclusive and gentle Mrs Ashley into a major tycoon. The Ashley empire, now under the control of her children, is spreading across the world faster than herbs sprout in a country garden.

As well as the new Oxford Circus store which opens in August (and is in addition to the existing Regent Street shop), Laura Ashley opens 16 other shops this year, bringing the total to 90 within the United Kingdom. At the same time, the group is opening new shops internationally at the rate of one a week.

The Laura Ashley success story rests on the excellent fashion principle of keeping

style up to date and prices down. Although the furnishings may still be rooted in the English country look of well-polished wood and well-worn chintz, the clothes have become far more sophisticated, reflecting the image of the urban young, with trousers and slim skirts now outnumbering the floral pinafores, and knitwear and accessories important.

But true to her roots as the earth mother of the alternative society, Laura Ashley continues to use natural fibres and offers them at appealing prices.

The charm bracelet is the latest fashion revival to be taken from Granny's trinket box. The delicate Victorian keepsakes and the more vulgar 1950s souvenirs are the hot sellers of the summer in the antique markets. Butler and Wilson have recreated the look in bold style with a wristful of gilt. Now you can buy bags of charm, making up your own jewellery from antique, gem-set and modern charms at Chiepo Chiepo, Oxford Walk, 152 Oxford Street, W1.



Richard Hume
Slipover £23.95, T-shirt £7.95, trousers £18.95. Laura Ashley, Chiepo Chiepo.

Angela Gore



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in slubbed polyester (55%) and cotton (45%) — easy to launder — crease resisting. Unlined shirt jacket, "A", has skirt with elasticated waist — side seam pockets — self belt. Length 39" with two inch hem and fully lined polyester taffeta. Made in our Kent workrooms; delivery from stock or up to 28 days and refitted if unsuitable. (1/34 bust, 36 hip), 12(36b-38b), 14(38c-40c), and 16(40c-42b).

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with touches of
The Odd Couple'
The Times

PETER PRINCE
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When Bill meets Roger, a man in the same predicament, the rage begins to surface. Together they plan to fight for custody of Roger's son. Little do they realise what it's going to cost them in terms of values, ideals... and friends...

'An extended documentary of where the sex war has got to in the 1980s... both sharp and fair! Anthony Twaite, The Observer.

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With more help we can reduce even the current figures (further and faster still). All donations should be sent to Birthright, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4SP. (Cheques, postal orders to 'Birthright')

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THE TIMES DIARY

Oman leaves its mark

Mark Thatcher and his motor-racing friend Steve Tipping voluntarily have liquidated their company Montegale - the marketing firm into which Mark paid his controversial consultancy fee for the Oman contract. The pair set up the company in 1979. Yesterday my source suggested the collapse of Montegale (bank account co-signatory Denis Thatcher) was largely due to the Oman row. "It meant they lost a lot of contracts they might otherwise have got, and when Mark moved to the US there seemed little point in continuing."



Tipping (left) and Thatcher

Clear the decks

Would the Government resort to hugging Brooks's gentlemen's club in St James's? Certainly someone seems to think it would. At a recent meeting to set up a committee of arbiters on naval procurement - independent of the Whitehall machine - the members' private room was swept for bugs prior to the meeting. According to my source the surveillance equipment was laid out, but the official line will be that nothing happened. The club secretary - so edgy he refused to give his name (Michael Roberts) - said it was "fairly routine" for private rooms at Brooks's to be swept and said bugs had not been found. Why the committee took the precaution of sweeping it is a mystery. The committee is investigating the MoD's decision to opt for the Admiralty's long-thin ship design against the independently designed short-fat ship. Both projects will meet in the High Court early next year and the court case is likely to expose the reputations of certain navy big wigs and ministers.

Bugs funny

Unlike Brooks's, it is not "fairly routine" to sweep all gentlemen's clubs in London. White's was incredulous when I suggested bugs may be present. The club's incredulity lessened when it realised my inquiry concerned the electronic variety. "We don't have any of these either. What a preposterous idea."

Playing up

Show folk! Methuen, celebrating 500 plays in print, on Sunday masterminded "the largest public gathering of playwrights in recent years" at the Royal Court and publicized it so well there was not even standing room left. And what happens? Irish panelist Margaretta D'Arvy announces that she has had nothing to do with the theatre since 1972 ("I have no interest in it at all"), calls it a drug, compares it to a blood sport ("Think of all the dead playwrights - the suicides") and condemns the format of the meeting. The result? An hour wasted wrangling about how to conduct the session, during which the chairman, Michael Attenborough of the Hampstead Theatre, is briefly forced to leave the chair. Before Miss D'Arvy leads a small band of fans out to an alternative meeting in the theatre bar.

No joke

On which council bottle bank does this eastern-looking gent with his silly turban appear? In anti-racist Islington, as it happens. Yesterday the council agreed that the cartoon represented an atrocious and stereotyped image of a Middle Eastern person. "I am very surprised that rubber gear and whips," says deputy editor Tim Muil, who has made complaints to superintendent level. The latest wheeze was an appeal supposedly from a Primrose Hill PC Dayer for anecdotes about the miners' dispute for a book in aid of charity - all nonsense, apparently. "Policemen are the biggest wind-up artists of all time," complains Muil.

Fraud squad

The Metropolitan Police paper The Job wishes there was a journalistic equivalent of the charge "wasting police time". Week after week it is inundated with bogus ads. "We've had people trying to sell off their superiors' cars, others wanting rubber gear and whips," says deputy editor Tim Muil, who has made complaints to superintendent level. The latest wheeze was an appeal supposedly from a Primrose Hill PC Dayer for anecdotes about the miners' dispute for a book in aid of charity - all nonsense, apparently. "Policemen are the biggest wind-up artists of all time," complains Muil.

Admit your mistake, Mrs T

by David Steel

Foreign observers must think the British Government crazy to condemn its Parliament to a further round of embittered debates and late night sittings on the abolition of the metropolitan counties. Yet here we are, with Mrs Thatcher and Patrick Jenkin intending to force through a bill by the weight of Conservative numbers in the absence of any stronger argument. It is crazy to persist with this ill-thought out and badly drafted bill. The Government should now withdraw it, and consult with other party leaders on an alternative approach to the restructuring of metropolitan government which can command a broad consensus of Parliament and of the electorate.

The Lords debates so far on the Metropolitan Counties Bill have been a clear moral defeat for its proposals. Alone among Conservative peers, Lords Boyd-Carpenter and Harman-Nicholls doggedly supported the Government line, while battalions of their colleagues stood up to voice their doubts and criticisms and shamefacedly allowed themselves to be dragged into the lobbies. Conservative backbench peers who rarely attend the Lords are having to be organized to turn up on a strict rota basis to outvote the coalitions which oppose the bill. The Government can, of course, succeed in forcing through the abolition of the metropolitan counties. The sums which Patrick Jenkin promised would be saved have now disappeared in concessions to the arts and other interests, and in revelations of the costs of the new non-elected bodies that will have to be created. A government which

came into office with a crusader's determination to cut down on quangos is setting out to create a morass of new quangos to administer the functions which will have to be continued at metropolitan level. The accountability of our police forces is to be reduced, and their funding thrown into question, by a government pledged to maintain order and law. The time-scale for abolition in the spring of 1986 is already desperately short, the main reason for clinging to it the Government's determination to avoid new metropolitan elections. There comes a time when all democratic politicians must admit that they are mistaken. To press on now, regardless of the arguments, of public opinion, and of the concerted opposition of other political parties, would do grave damage to Britain's constitutional conventions. Here is a government whose steamroller majority rests on the flimsy basis of a million fewer votes in 1983 than in 1979 which is now playing fast and loose with the democratic structure of the British constitution. I beseech the Prime Minister to think it possible that she may be mistaken, and withdraw this Bill now. The author is leader of the Liberal Party.

John Carlin on a growing challenge to the debt-ridden government

What price change for Mexico?

Mexico City President Miguel de la Madrid, who arrives in London today, took power at the end of 1982 knowing his six years in office would hold little cheer. His predecessor, Señor José Lopez Portillo, had handed him an uncomfortable legacy: Mexico's worst economic crisis this century and a ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party more discredited than at any point since it took control of Mexican politics in 1929. The flamboyant Lopez Portillo, intoxicated by the discovery in 1978 of vast new oil fields, had sold Mexicans dreams of untold prosperity. For Lopez Portillo himself the dream did come true - he is said to have accumulated a personal hoody of more than one billion. The country, meanwhile, was left virtually bankrupt.



Battling to banish this ghost, de la Madrid has projected an image of honesty and tough realism. In the face of the canny, usually corrupt, "politicos" who have headed the PRI's ranks in recent years, de la Madrid has chosen around him men with apparently clean records in public service, stolid technocrats educated in England and the United States. This highly professional team has succeeded in calming the nerves of the international financial community, to whom Mexico owes \$96 billion, including \$13 billion to British banks. Two years ago de la Madrid declared that Mexico stood out "in the economic chaos that pervades the world for its seriousness, its responsibility and its willingness to fulfill its promises." Nothing has changed since then. Mexico remains, by common agreement, the star client of the International Monetary Fund. At home, however, things do not look quite so rosy. The great majority of Mexico's 78 million population have appeared quite willing to tolerate, even admire, the shameless self-enrichment of senior PRI officials so long as the country maintained bumper rates of growth, nourishing the people's hopes that they themselves might share in the bonanza. But now, with the country having to channel 75 per cent of its oil export income into debt interest payments with inflation uncontrollably high and with the peso currency plummeting, Mexicans have had to accept that Mexico is

doomed to underdeveloped Third World status for the foreseeable future. Until de la Madrid took office, election results in Mexico were as predictable as in the Soviet Union. But now Mexicans have begun to express their resentment at the ballot box. In local elections since de la Madrid took office the PRI has done badly. The party's first real challenge comes on July 7, with elections for seven state governors and four deputies to a new national congress. The PRI can afford to lose seats in congress and still maintain its comfortable majority. But if a governorship is lost, it could signal the beginning of the end for Mexico's one-party system. Ironically, given President de la Madrid's popularity in international banking circles, the challenge comes from the pro-Reagan, business-backed right-wing party, National Action or PAN. The left-wing parties - of which there are dozens - are bitterly divided. The PAN, patiently awaiting its chance for 34 years, has therefore emerged as the only plausible party of opposition. The PAN has been able to capitalize on its unique status in large measure because it has struck a chord among the Americanized and once pampered middle classes, the social sector most immediately damaged by the economic crisis. It is an eminently bourgeois party, fiercely opposed to what its leaders describe as the PRI's "communist" orthodoxy of state control - there is more private ownership in Nicaragua than in Mexico. The PAN holds out the promise to middle class Mexicans that the quality of life glimpsed north of the border in

the United States can also be theirs. Apart from a few general principles, however, the party is conspicuously lacking in any concrete plans; a point the PRI never tires of making these days. The great appeal of the PAN, however, is that, quite simply, it offers the possibility of change. And the critical question next month's election will answer is whether the PRI is willing to permit change. "We don't need fraud," to secure electoral victories," de la Madrid declared at a meeting for the PRI leadership in March. "We must seek clear, transparent triumphs". But aides have acknowledged there are factions inside the PRI who hold that it must "win" at whatever cost, by whatever means. Over the years the PRI system has been perceived by diplomats and academics as a sort of benevolent authoritarianism, resorting to repression only when all efforts at more delicate persuasion have failed. The PAN promises now to test that benevolence. Its president, Señor Pablo Madero, has stated categorically that "if there is fraud in these elections, then there will be violence" because "fraud itself is a form of violence against the rights of the people". If there is anti-government violence no one doubts that there will be a fierce response from the police and army, as happened in the northern town of Toluca Nagras last Christmas, soon after local elections when PAN supporters ran riot and burnt down the town hall. This time the violence could be more widespread, the danger of long-term political instability greater and the risks magnified of heading in the repressive direction of countries like Chile. The clean "democratic" option publicly sought by the president would involve a total break with PRI tradition. It would also provide the most concrete proof that the government is as serious about moral renewal" as it palpably has been about "austerity". The economic crisis has forced on Mexico a period of political transition, a point not lost among a PRI leadership noted for its refined political instinct. Some in the party, and many outside it, believe now that the PRI's best instinct - for the continued stability of both party and country - would lead it to mark the transition by consciously relinquishing some of its power.

Roger Scruton

Let learning grow - with some pruning

Higher education has a loud voice in the media, a strong arm in Parliament and a free hand in the public purse. It is one of the most powerful vested interests in the modern state, and better able than most to give proof of its indispensability. Those who wish to clip the tree of learning, to pruned its rotting branches, or merely to question the general value of a growth whose shade seems so lethal to every rival interest are, to those who live from the fruit of the tree, the rudest of rude barbarians.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the government's green paper on the future of higher education has provoked sincere and vehement outrage. And, even if it is less uncouth than most of its critics, the paper is undeniably deficient in tact and understanding. It argues, reasonably enough, that education should be funded by the public only if it benefits the public. But its utilitarian idea of benefit, suggesting that there might be an economic standard of academic success, is riddled with confusions.

Economics is, of course, a primary concern so responsible government. And the country can prosper only if it produces the right kind of "human capital". Hence polytechnics and universities have a vital economic function. Prosperity, however, is not an end but a means: it is the sine qua non, the necessary guarantee of well-being. We should not value education as a means to prosperity, but prosperity as a means to education. Only then will our priorities be right. For education, unlike prosperity, is an end in itself.

This is not to say that the government is wrong to consider the economics of higher education, or to seek a suitable return for the expenditure of public money. It must be clear, however, not only about its own priorities, but also about the priorities of those whom it seeks to discipline. Academics do not value learning for its economic results, but for its own sake; they do not teach to produce a pecuniary advantage but for its own sake; they do not do research to stimulate the economy, but for its own sake. Of course, education is also profitable. But if you fix your eye too firmly on the profit, you lose sight of the thing itself.

Education is like friendship; it brings help, comfort, strength, privilege and success. Friendship is unquestionably profitable. However, you must never value friendship for the profit that it brings. To treat friendship as a means is to lose the capacity for friendship. Your companion is no longer your friend when you begin to weigh him in the balance of advantage. So it is with education; the profit of education persists only so long as you don't pursue it.

Furthermore, the profit comes to us by an "invisible hand". Economic planning is no more likely to succeed in this field than in any other. Who could have foreseen that a society whose elite was educated primarily in languages which are no longer spoken, should prove capable of managing the largest, the most profitable and the most powerful colonial administration that the world has known? And who could

have foreseen that a society whose educational system is dedicated to science and technology should have produced only indifferent science, faulty technology, and a flourishing underground culture profoundly hostile to both?

In this area wise planning means the careful avoidance of plans. Research must take its own course, guided only by that interest in truth without which it has neither result nor motive. And education should provide not the narrow details of tomorrow's technology (which will soon be yesterday's) but the intellectual discipline which adapts itself to new and changing circumstances precisely because it is attached to none. Higher education, in short, must be pointless and irrelevant. Otherwise it has no value.

That said, it is only fair to praise the government for questioning much that passes for higher education in this country. When the tide of drift has swollen to such proportions that the University of Bradford can offer a first degree in a subject ("peace studies") that doesn't even exist, it is surely time to ask whether there might not be better uses for the taxpayer's money.

Take an impartial look at a modern campus, at the literature which students are asked to study, the questions they are required to answer, the standards of conduct to which they are expected to conform, and ask yourself how far what you observe accords with any ideal of disinterested learning. Or attend a conference of the British Sociological Association and listen to semi-literate papers defending "the social construction of solidarity in the face of a dual strategy of paternalism and repression"; the thesis that "women are policed through the control of their bodies" and the idea that "flashing" is an instrument of male domination.

Or pick up a copy of one of the new journals of literary theory, *Semiotica*, for instance, or *Post-Modernism*, and wade through the acres of jargon produced by people who can neither write with skill nor read with understanding, and who have lost all sense of the difference between a genuine question and a will of the wisp.

Perform any of those exercises and then ask yourself whether the expansion of higher education has really produced, on the whole, the disciplined intellect and cultured perception which the critics of the green paper suppose to be threatened by the government's parsimony. Ask yourself what has been the consequence of filling universities and polytechnics with academics who would not have been considered a generation earlier and yet who at once obtained tenure. Ask yourself whether bad education is really better than no education at all, and whether a government is really under an obligation to maintain the flood of vociferous ignorance that pours from our academic institutions. You will then perhaps commend the green paper for seeking to judge those institutions by some standard, even if it is a standard that does not apply.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Profit is the father of invention

This Sunday is Father's Day, the day on which greetings card manufacturers traditionally get together, count their money and wonder if it might be worth starting at Aunt's Day next year. After all, there are more aunts around than fathers...

My favourite aunt, this card's for you. So please don't look askance. If I should send it off as well. To all my other aunts.

The history of Father's Day is hidden in the shrouds of history, or to put it another way, nobody has bothered to find out the origin. The original name was Fathering Day, which some people think is a corruption of Fotheringay, a medieval town where greetings cards were first manufactured. In those days all cards were made by hand and written by priests, or fathers, hence the expression Father's Day.

There was no post to speak of, so all cards had to be delivered by the sender. This was all right if you lived in the same village, but if your favourite relative had gone on a crusade or a pilgrimage to Rome, the problems were immense. Historians now think that up to 20 per cent of people on any one crusade were civilians taking cards out to relatives who'd gone on the previous crusade. On the whole, though, they preferred to stay at home and give them to the head of the family - hence, probably, the expression Father's Day.

The first greetings cards which have survived were those written by Henry VIII on what he was pleased to call Wife's Day, the day tending to change with the wife. The post was not much better then, and on at least one occasion he sent a card to one wife, which arrived a year later and was received by the next. This no doubt explains his habit of addressing cards in later years: "To Which Wife It May Concerne".

I send this greeting card to you. My dearest darling wife. To bring to mind your marriage vows. A male child or your life! A hundred years later Father's

Day had become an occasion for roistering, carousing, rioting, dwile flonking, dancing, japing, hundred-a-side football, kiss-stealing, orgies and returning library books late, so not unnaturally Oliver Cromwell banned it. For 12 years Father's Day was muted by a complete silence throughout England, except perhaps for the occasional whisper of "Have a nice day, father" - and in 1656 several young farmers in Hertfordshire were hanged for attempting to give their fathers slippers and pairs of socks.

Charles II, of course, revived it, as it cost him nothing personally, and in 1668 Samuel Pepys records in his diary: "Up betimes, and did receive a new tie and three kerchieves from my family for Father's Day. This foolish festival is of benefit only to the tie and kerchief makers", which suggests that the tradition has not changed much. James II, a Catholic, was a strict observer of Friday as a fast day and the preceding day - indeed, there are some historians who claim that Father's Day is a corruption of "for Thursday", but this does not seem plausible, as no one was likely to make money out of it.

The whole thing was put back on a correct footing in 1693 when the Honourable Company of Greetings Card Makers was formed to get the maximum profit out of any day going. They underwent a temporary setback in 1715 when they put out a special card marked "To my favourite Pretender", and many of their number were executed for treason, but a good commercial idea cannot be held back for long. Today Father's Day is celebrated every year as a tribute to those card-makers who make so much money out of it.

This card, dear Dad, is just for you. Or so the makers think. It gives a sentimental view of someone with a drink. A set of golf clubs, pipe in hand. A neat deer-stalker hat. Dear God, am I to understand there are still Dads like that? © Times Newspapers Limited, 1985

Training: where the problems lie

Colin Hughes sifts through the results of a new poll which points to problems for policymakers

As a salve for unemployment, a fitness booster for our body, economic adult training is in vogue among pro-vocationalizing Cabinet ministers. But who and what is it, for do they want it, will it really help? Investment in the skills of the British workforce is critically low. As a shaming Institute of Manpower Studies report showed last year, we lag furiously behind our prime industrial competitors. An opinion poll published here for the first time will sober those who believe the remedy may be applied smoothly. The MORI survey, commissioned jointly by Granada Television and the Manpower Services Commission, highlights scepticism about the efficacy of training among a large proportion of its targets, disturbing resistance to changing work patterns and limited awareness of future needs. Industry may, at last, be restructuring but the poll indicates that the labour force has a long way to go. Willingness to train, to move house for work, to seek advice and even to devote personal time and funds to the "treatment" is there but concentrated among those who, in social terms, need it least. Young people and those already on the first rungs of the skills and certificate ladder are eager for impetus from slow-moving employers, unions, and public authorities. However, a large group of unskilled and dispirited and poorly motivated people remain out of reach. The poll raises an important question for policymakers: should this resources for training be channelled towards those most likely to use it or to those who, although they need it most, are least likely to benefit? The sheer scale of our collective inaptitude has to be the starting point. Two-thirds of the 1,400 people surveyed in four towns (Reading, Coventry, Motherwell and King's Lynn) were unskilled and had no educational or professional qualifications. This was also true of well over half of those in work. In a complementary national poll, exactly half of the respondents said

they had received no training in the past five years, although 62 per cent were willing to try over the next two years.

In West Germany, apprenticeships and college release are woven into the fabric of working life. The Japanese spend 60,000 million on in-company training compared with £2,500 million spent here. In the United States, where employers spend five times the average amount spent in Britain. The incoherent British system is under review. Qualifications are to be rationalized following an inter-departmental White Paper in April, but there remains no national integration. Would-be adult trainees do not know where to go, or where they might find funds.

In the MORI "four towns" survey, the employed group was shown to be a largely stable workforce. Most had worked at one place for more than five years; one in 20 had suffered more than one period out of work; only 12 per cent were actively seeking another job. Although 42 per cent anticipate major changes in their work only 29 per cent thought they would need training to cope which suggests that 13 per cent of working people believe they can ride upheaval on their own wits.

Only 53 per cent would consider training, compared with 71 per cent of jobless who would be willing trainees. Half were keen to receive personal advice. Only 15 per cent, however, had been invited recently to discuss possibilities with their employer. That stark figure alone underlines the National Economic Development Council's view that employer attitudes must bear a large part of the blame. Once those in work have had a taste of training their appetite increases. Half of those questioned wanted some guidance and prompting, however, way beyond the level of advice provided now, formally or informally. Moving would ease some of the problems of the one in 10 who blamed their local rate of unemployment but half of them said they would refuse to move. One in four of those who attributed their job-hunting failure to being unskilled remained loath to remedy the problem by training. The conclusion

Pay-as-you-learn

The single most telling result from the poll is that fewer than one in 10 working people would be prepared to take out a bank loan for adult training. Of the 51 per cent in permanent jobs who would consider training to improve or supplement their skills, only 11 per cent would take out a loan to pay for it, with 79 per cent rejecting the suggestion. The idea of running loan schemes has been current among employment and education ministers for some time, and the MSC is expected to run pilot projects. The poll evidence is that the market will be small. Long-term financial commitments are widely distrusted, and many employees doubt that the expendi-

ture would necessarily result in increased earnings. The government's proposed scheme would involve banks providing training loans guaranteed by the Treasury. On a large scale, the guarantee would have to be included in public sector borrowing figures, and could increase them drastically. Promising features are nonetheless apparent. Half of those willing to train said they were prepared to pay at least some of the costs, and 14 per cent were prepared to pay all. Four out of five of those who would consider training would also be prepared to do it in their own time, and only one in four refused to pay any costs.

that there exists a small group who lie beyond palliation is inescapable. The extent of hopelessness about finding work even if realistic is distressing. Three out of four unemployed people hold no hopes about finding a job in the immediate future. Only 15 per cent of those aged over 40 were hopeful, compared with 34 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds. More than half of the youngest group felt training would improve their chances, compared with 27 per cent of those over 40. The real problem lies within the existing available workforce and it may take two decades to change attitudes. Reaching the 59 per cent of unqualified unemployed people who at least would consider training is a tall order since 87 per cent of the total had received no training advice recently. It is dismal that 55 per cent of the jobless respondents did not believe training would improve their chances anyway, even though two-thirds overall would try it. However, there are crumbs of comfort for Lord Young who, if reports are borne out, may soon head a new ministry specifically set up to tackle training. The Youth Training Scheme, for example, helped some find work and did not leave trainees disillusioned as critics suggest. According to poll results most were happy to contemplate further training. If the government is earnest about awakening employees and employers to the urgent need for training it will have to take subtle decisions. Throwing training at the unqualified unemployed is not going to work without a costly programme of individual enlightenment. Letting private and public providers attempt to reach the hearts and minds of prospective trainees will be worthless without local employers' active involvement. MORI interviewed a quota sample of 1,416 adults for the "four towns" survey between February 16 and March 13 this year, and 1,934 adults for the national survey at 170 sampling points between April 9 and 14. Granada Television is using the results for a series of jobless programmes over next Sunday (June 17), and the MSC is analyzing the results for research into its adult training campaign.



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THE OPEN AGENDA

In the movement of ideas in this decade the Adam Smith Institute must be accorded a role. Its serial publications under the title *The Omega File* have been a succession of jobs and feints against entrenched public sector interest. Not all have drawn blood - the institute's thoughts on the criminal justice system for example have attracted little notice. Yet an institute which only three years ago was widely perceived as a fanatic band of libertarians to make Mill blush has undoubtedly become a source of practical proposals for the conduct of some of Mrs Thatcher's ministers; its language of deregulation and privatization is now one from which politicians, and not just conservatives, are happy to borrow.

Of the several merits of the compendium of Omega reports published yesterday the greatest is the institute's honest vision of the welfare state extending far outside the NHS or public housing to provide an array of

benefits - to middle class parents with children in higher education, to farmers as skilled in milking bureaucracy as their cattle, to professional people organized in restraint of trade and competition, to crofters inefficiently subsidized. The same climate and era which saw the creation of the NHS produced the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act and its restriction on development, its protection of one man's amenity against others' opportunity. The institute has been prepared coldly to appraise both institutions. Its reports thus provide a check-list of areas where the Government has entertained radical thoughts (even the Department of Health has looked sideways at the financing of the NHS) and those where political fearfulness has forbidden even internal reviews.

The institute's thinking can of course be faulted. Some of its work betrays a philosophical eclecticism which endangers the

whole project; at times the principle seems to be more hatred of government than love for individual freedom. This leaves little room for fair estimation of useful or necessary public purpose. These papers rarely convey the sense expressed by Adam Smith and those he influenced - such as Thomas Jefferson - of the noble and enlightening qualities of government. Key questions about the regulation of private monopoly are set to one side.

These four hundred odd pages are hardly the stuff of bedside reading - but they ought by now to have been well digested by ministers and officials in all the departments and agencies they concern. The institute calls its file "an almanac". Better to call it a radical reference book, a starting point for each and every minister and Prime Minister who aspires to a rigorous appraisal of the working of the governmental empire they inherited and which, as yet, they have little decreased.

MEXICAN WELCOME

When President de la Madrid of Mexico took office in December 1982, he inherited a country which was facing what appeared to be a profound political and economic crisis caused largely by the policies of his predecessor Lopez Portillo. Lopez Portillo had tried to use Mexico's new oil wealth to purchase every political soft option. He dignified this policy by describing it as "learning how to live with abundance". He failed, and miserably. It is a measure of President de la Madrid's achievement that now, in 1985, as he starts a state visit today in London, the world's view of Mexico has changed so much for the better. He has brought serious responsible leadership to a country which had long needed it.

The strategic importance of Mexico to the whole Western world had previously been somewhat ignored. It certainly came to the forefront in 1982 through the wrong reasons, since the immediate danger appeared to be of a major international default causing havoc in the world's financial system.

There was another fear in Washington which was always resented in Mexico itself, though not fully with justification. That fear was that Mexico's curiously elusive system of semi-democracy would be unequal to the strain of recovery from a near economic collapse. The consequence would then be some kind of major disintegration and instability, igniting that vast country on the southern border of the United States, and dwarfing those lesser difficulties in the tiny states of Central America. Any further instability could have spawned a refugee problem and a scale of illegal immigration across America's common border which would have grown into a serious

domestic crisis within the United States. These fears have obviously abated for the short term. But the significance of Mexico to the United States stems from more than its common border and the fact that they are two major trading partners. The Gulf of Mexico sits over the route through which the United States would be able to support NATO in an emergency. That fact and the potential danger of an unstable Mexico have often been lost on the European mind. Europeans consequently have tended to carp about Washington's detailed plans in Central America without necessarily paying sufficient attention to the overall view.

In London President de la Madrid's conversations with Britain, however, will be able to provide a different perspective of Central American developments than those to be heard in Washington. In private they may not be quite as different as often appears from the public statements emerging from the Contadora peace process in which Mexico is involved. Everybody seems to find the Contadora discussions usefully ineffective in coping with the slow but unresolved issue of Nicaragua-exported communism.

A more important and fruitful bond between our governments is likely to be in the growth of trade which should open up between Britain and Mexico so long as President Madrid continues with the policy that he has started.

He has managed to reduce his government debt, bring down the rate of inflation, though not yet to the 40 per cent by the end of 1984, to which he had aspired. However, he has in practice repudiated the populist spending policies of most of his predecessors, embraced a considerable

privatization programme, and reduced the role of big amorphous almost ubiquitously spendthrift governments, particularly in the secondary areas which are of no fundamental importance to the course of the economy.

President de la Madrid has managed to renegotiate Mexico's international debt so that, certainly while he is in office, the world's bankers will sleep more soundly. Nevertheless there are parts of the Mexican economic management which still cause concern to potential international investors. After years of antipathy towards the outside foreign investor restrictions remain. Mexico has always insisted on foreign capital being limited to 49 per cent of the equity with other regulations in the wings.

In February 1984, Mexico's Secretary of Commerce, Hector Hernandez, introduced a National Foreign Investment Commission to help attract new foreign investment but the old 49 per cent law still stays on the statute books. Since then the Mexican Government has said that it hopes to attract an extra billion dollars a year of foreign investment but the President with financial circles, that would-be British investors are likely to remain unconvinced about the full attractions of Mexico so long as that 49 per cent law remains in the background.

That is likely to be one of the messages he hears. Moreover a test case is already available with a proposed investment by IBM. That initially ran foul of the Foreign Investment Commission. If Mexico is still putting obstructions in the way of a company as symbolic as IBM, what hope is there for other would-be investors with less clout?

EXEMPLARY JUSTICE

What right has Britain to criticize the Soviet record on civil liberties when Britain itself has repeatedly been found guilty by the European Court of Human Rights? Moscow publicists are not short of ammunition. They blame the shameful behaviour of British football hooligans on despair at being deprived of the right to work. They cite the Strasbourg court's condemnation of various practices, from the treatment of arrested persons in Northern Ireland to corporal punishment in schools, and deplore in particular the British immigration laws which *Pravda* claims amount to racial discrimination. Moscow Radio quotes *The Times* as stating that one third of complaints to the European Court from the 21 countries which signed the Convention on Human Rights come from Britain.

This is not a record of which we can be proud, but it should certainly not stop the British representatives at the Ottawa review conference demanding that the USSR improve its observance of the Helsinki accords. Civil liberties are not guaranteed for all time simply because rulers sign some Magna Carta; rights must be won and defended. It is unparliamentary mental sloth to dismiss the debate as pointless on the grounds that since both the British and the Soviet governments are guilty of violations, their mutual recriminations are little more than insincere propaganda.

The degree of guilt is very different. British citizens feel free to complain to Strasbourg; Soviet citizens who criticize their government's record risk long

prison sentences. The British media stimulate discussion of the issues by reporting alleged violations in detail; the Soviet media is likewise free to report violations in detail - if they occur in the West.

When issues are openly debated in democratic societies improvements generally follow. Significantly, Soviet propagandists prefer to draw evidence for their criticisms of "bourgeois society" from the western media. When Moscow accuses President Reagan of having his own Dachau-style concentration camps, the source is not Tass, since Soviet citizens would find it incredible, but the US magazine *Spotlight*, which is cited to the effect that tens of thousands are now behind barred wire: "not only illegal immigrants but also American citizens who criticize the White House". Although happy to exploit Western Press freedom, the Warsaw Pact representatives at Ottawa refused to allow journalists to attend the debates; such decisions must be unanimous, and in fact only the closing session on June 17 will have the media present.

The Kremlin has not succeeded, however, in imposing total censorship on the conference which is supposed to discuss the free flow of people and information. Western and neutral delegates issue copies of their speeches and provide accounts of what Warsaw Pact representatives say. The US delegation includes an information officer who briefs journalists on the proceedings. The chief Soviet diplomat, Mr Vsevolod Sofinsky (whose spell as ambassador to New Zealand ended amid accusations of attempted trade union

subversion), denounced Britain for its unemployment, illiteracy, suppressing of the Gaelic language, and its inadequate maternity leave.

When he raised the case of Bobby Sands, the IRA terrorist who in 1981 starved himself to death in prison, the British delegate pointed out that in the USSR nationalists accused of terrorism are executed. The Soviet press has reported several such cases, involving most recently Georgians and Armenians. Moreover, an Estonian, Jiri Kukk, imprisoned for nothing worse than peacefully defending his nation's cultural heritage, was killed by forced feeding when he went on hunger strike.

Speaking in defence of Soviet citizens imprisoned for monitoring their regime's violations of the Helsinki Accords, the Dutch delegate said that the whole population of the Netherlands would be in prison if it were a crime to criticize their government. The Polish rulers, who appear to favour such a solution for the Solidarity problem, were embarrassed when Lech Walesa wrote to the Ottawa conference complaining that a law adopted last month has increased penal repression.

The Czech delegate tried to defend his government's harassment of the Charter-77 movement, which last March issued an appeal central to the matters under discussion at Ottawa: "The freedom and dignity of individual citizens provide the key to the freedom and self-determination of nations. And only sovereign nations can transform Europe into a community of equal partners which, rather than threatening global nuclear war, would serve as an example of genuine peaceful coexistence."

Political will in famine prevention

From Dr Frances D'Souza
Sir, Your leader on food and famine (June 10) correctly identifies two major issues which continue to make sub-Saharan Africa increasingly vulnerable. The last point is crucial, that improvements in attempts to prevent famine should not remain in the "remote dimension of money, subsidy and international politics". This would be a dangerous conventional wisdom if only because it may allow the international donor community to absolve itself from more pragmatic action.

Even within the context of the complicated politics of some famine-prone African countries there are actions which, if taken now, could reduce potential death from starvation. These include a greater effort on the part of donor governments and agencies to become a unified force to combat familiar obstacles such as the reluctance of a government to declare the beginnings of a famine or reluctance of the donor community to act earlier.

Secondly, a greater investment by the donor community in relatively small-scale food security systems such as pre-positioning food buffer stocks, in food-for-work programmes or, simply, in contributing to an effective food-distribution plan before the major crisis.

These measures and others are not prohibitively expensive, politically unacceptable or impossible to set up. They do, however, require a sustained commitment on the part of donors in between newsworthy famines and, ultimately, a willingness to separate humanitarian concern from power politics.

It is to be hoped that the Commons debate will acknowledge that famine prevention, in the short term, is largely a matter of political will and technical investment rather than an indulgent and extended debate on a re-ordering of international economic imbalance. Yours faithfully, FRANCES D'SOUZA, Research Director, International Disaster Institute, 85 Marylebone High Street, W1, June 10.

Rights and abortion

From the Director and Secretary of British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering

Sir, Mrs Ann Winterton, MP's reported (May 21) hostile criticism of a judge's "scandalous" decision to override a mother's wishes by warding her 15-year-old daughter and allowing her to have an abortion highlights the sensitive resolution of the difficult issues in this sensitive area.

At least in the reported case it was clear that the child's welfare was the first and paramount consideration, but in the forthcoming *Gillick* case, in which the House of Lords will be asked to consider the legality of the DHSS circular on the advice and treatment for children under 16 in relation to contraception and abortion, the guiding legal principle has still to be resolved.

The Court of Appeal approached the case solely from a parental rights perspective, but this is not the inevitable approach and indeed it would be more consistent with over a century's legal development to consider the case in the light of children's interests.

Approaching the question from the latter perspective (tempered perhaps by a presumption that the parents' wishes represent the child's best interests, at any rate, up to the age of discretion), the acute problems (apparently ignored by the Court of Appeal but of which, sadly, this organisation has plenty of experience) of dealing with unwanted children or those of inadequate parents could more adequately be dealt with. Is it right that the treatment of such children should be entirely dependent upon the exercise of a parental right?

Even if the House of Lords upholds the pure parental rights approach it must be hoped that the uncertainties of the Court of Appeal's decision will be clarified by, for example, defining what amounts to an "emergency" (so as to justify "treatment"); spelling out what constitutes "advice" and what "information" (do parental rights really extend to preventing a child receiving (sources of) information about contraception?) and resolving the extent to which parental powers of control extend to 16 and 17-year-olds.

Yours faithfully, TONY HALL, Director and Secretary, British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering, 11 Southwark Street, SE1, May 30.

Drink, health and crime

From Mr D. T. Allsop and Mr W. M. Saunders

Sir, We refer to the recent publicity surrounding the OPCS (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys) survey carried out to assess the impact of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976, and the first would like to make the observation that it is an interesting new development for government to assess the success or failure of legislation on the basis of an opinion poll.

As licensing law is a control measure it is not particularly surprising that its relaxation is popular. Whether it is good for the nation's drinking health is another matter. We feel sure that legislation to drastically reduce the duty on alcoholic beverages by, say, 50 per cent would meet with similar public approval. An increase in Scotland of 13 per cent in consumption since 1976 cannot be lightly dismissed.

Principle of consensus on pensions

From Mr T. S. McLeod

Sir, Twelve years ago I led the CBI team in a series of discussions with the Government, the opposition parties, the TUC and the pension industry which preceded the 1975 Act. Two previous attempts to give the bulk of the working population the sort of pensions enjoyed by managerial and professional staff had foundered when there had been a change of government before they could be implemented and this time the minister responsible, the late Brian O'Malley, said that he would go on negotiating and making concessions until he found a formula that we would all accept and undertake to stay with.

It was generally agreed that the Act that emerged was the best possible: not ideal but a compromise that would last. Just as it is better for the law to be certain than for it to be absolutely just, it is better for pension policy to be enduring than for it to be absolutely fair.

It has been suggested that the high cost of the earnings-related addition to the taxpayer of the twenty-first century has only just been discovered: actually it was pointed out in the debates of 1975 by Mr Norman Fowler and Mr Kenneth Clarke.

It has also been said that the original estimates of the Government Actuary were seriously in error: this was refuted in your columns on May 23 by the President of the Institute of Actuaries. He went on to say that what had changed was the willingness of the public to accept the costs. He was

clearly writing in ignorance of an opinion poll described by you the previous day which showed that over 70 per cent of the electorate thought that the scheme should not be changed.

This view was supported in evidence given to the enquiry by the CBI, the TUC, the Occupational Pension Group Joint Working Party, the National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of Consulting Actuaries. Opposition to the earnings-related scheme appears to have come mainly from academic economists uninhibited by experience of pension management.

This is not the place to repeat the arguments which led to the consensus of 1975, or to detail the problems and pitfalls of the fine recommended by the Green Paper. It is to urge that the principle of consensus should be retained and that only changes that will survive a change of government should be made.

As a suggestion, if it is believed that pay-as-you-go schemes are a burden on the work force but funded schemes are not, it would be simple enough to leave the basic pension as it stands but to fund the earnings-related addition. It might even be possible to persuade the opposition parties to accept this.

Yours faithfully, T. S. McLEOD, Little Woolgarston Cottage, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset, June 4.

Future of universities

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, Sir Geoffrey Chandler, leading the Royal Society of Arts' initiative, "Industry Year 1986", has put his finger on a deep reason for Britain's decline. In a country that depends on industry, he says, we have an "anti-industrial" culture.

The truth of this has been shown by the crisis of Sir Keith Joseph's Green Paper on higher education. They say, to sum up, that to relate education more to the real world of work (as Sir Keith wants to do) will harm the quality of life.

Sir, nothing harms the quality of life more than poverty. Even those who believe in the merits of a pure, unadorned, academic education will perhaps concede that someone has to pay for it. A priority must surely be to generate the wealth necessary to the life we want.

The academic tradition has fine virtues, but it also has a lot to answer for. In a country that depends absolutely on its capacity to create wealth such separation is unrealistic. Nor is it any kindness to young people, the new generations, that when I left university I knew about Praxiteles and Piero della Francesca. But I couldn't do anything. Such education, enjoyable as it was, does little to meet either the urgent needs of a declining nation in an increasingly competitive world or those of young people who need jobs.

Strasbourg law

From Mr N. S. Price

Sir, In his letter (June 5) Lord Devlin appears to invite governments to disobey the international rule of law in that they should "be wary of attending too closely" to the pronouncements of the European Court of Human Rights against the Convention by the prescribed procedure (article 65).

Only one state (Turkey) has ever done this and has since been readmitted, but before any such decision were taken consideration should be given to the political consequences. All members of the EEC adhere to the European Convention, which is also part of EEC law applied by the European Court in Luxembourg in its own field and is part of the structure of European integration.

Whatever the merits of the recent decision of the Strasbourg Court, the loss of sovereignty involved by adherence to the European Convention must be weighed against the general merits of European integration.

We should, moreover, remember the historical background to this Convention, particularly in this, the 40th anniversary year of the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule and the gross breaches of human rights that this involved.

Political stability and peace in Europe should not be sacrificed by the kind of isolationism advocated in your leader (June 1), particularly in the field of human rights. Yours faithfully, N. S. PRICE, University of Buckingham, School of Law, Buckingham, June 5.

Of course, relating education to work is a matter of emphasis, of balance, but no one is suggesting anything else.

I submit, Sir, that anything Sir Keith can do to bring education more in line with the real world is both overdue and greatly to be welcomed. In the long run it is the only way to sustain the quality of life we all cherish.

Yours faithfully, JAMES PILDITCH, 62 Cadogan Square, SW1, June 3.

Stonehenge alternative

From Mr D. A. Budgett

Sir, The situation of people who want to celebrate the solstice at Stonehenge is not comparable with that of Christians who cannot get access to cathedrals in an atheist country, as Dr Smith (June 7) maintains.

If the Christians were in the habit of building camp fires in the walls and digging up the graves, I would have every sympathy with the atheist regime and for Dr Smith's analogy. However, I am pleased to note that such behaviour among Christians is exceptional.

Yours sincerely, D. A. BUDGETT, 40 Bodmin Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire, June 7.

Reporting on Lebanon

From Mr D. J. McCarthy

Sir, Mr Robert Fisk can doublets look after himself against the systematic attacks of which Mr Cannon's (June 6) is the latest. But self-defence tends to get discounted. Maybe someone uninvolved should say something.

I do not know what qualifications Mr Cannon has to be "more discerning" about the Lebanon than your other readers. For those who have known that country, the strength of his Mr Fisk's reporting has been his consistently unblinkered understanding of the murderous factionalism of those who have ruined that country, of the nature of the social revolt which underlies Amal in particular, and of the motives of *realpolitik* which have governed the policies of Syria and the other Arab elements involved.

His writing is certainly colourful. To the allegation that colour overstates fact, the best answer may be that on the essentials of his more harrowing reporting he has always been backed by comparable factual material from the correspondents of the *Financial Times* and *Le Monde* and other responsible papers. That, notably, has applied whether he was describing Druze collaboration with Syria, "Christian" collusion with Israel, or the excesses of Shia reaction after Sidon.

Mr Fisk's main detractors have been supporters of Israel. But he does not report on Israel. They would have had no occasion to complain had Israel's forces remained in their own country. Yours truly, D. J. MCCARTHY, Church Farmhouse, Sudbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 11 1870

Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Landport, a division of Portsmouth now in Portsmouth. He died at Gadshill Place, Rochester, on June 9, 1870.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES DICKENS.

The mere announcement that Charles Dickens is dead repeats the common sentence passed on all humanity. . . . We have had greater than others, and more than most, but these were not of our day and generation. For us just now this loss is our greatest. . . . There are minds of such jealous fibre that the very merits of an author, his mightiest gifts and his most special talents, only serve as food on which to nourish their prejudices. Such are they who, while forced to admit the wit, humour, and power of Charles Dickens, always added, "but he was vulgar." Yes, in one sense he was vulgar; he delighted in sketching the characters not of dukes and dukes, and but of the poor and lowly. He listened to their wants and sorrows, seen them in their alleys and garrets, had learnt their accents and dialect by heart, and then, with a truth and liveliness all his readers and ladies had in his immortal works. In that sense alone was Charles Dickens "vulgar." He was of the people, and lived among them. His was not the close atmosphere of a salon or of a forcing house. In the open air of the streets, and woods, and fields, he lived, and had his being, and so he came into close union with common men, and caught with an intuitive force and fulness of feature every detail of their daily life. His creations have become naturalized, so to speak, among all classes of the community, and are familiar to every man, high or low. How many fine gowns and ladies, who never saw Pickwick or Sam Weller in the flesh, have laughed at their portraits by Charles Dickens. How many have been heartbroken at the sufferings of Oliver, and wept at the brutality of Bill Sikes, wept over the fallen Nancy's cruel fate, and even sympathized with the terrible agony of Fagin in the condemned cell, who but for Charles Dickens would never have known of his existence. And such intensity of feeling existed in those lower depths of London life.

We have heard it objected also by gentlemen that Charles Dickens would never describe a man or a woman in a way that he could never sketch the character of a "gentleman" but we have always observed that when put to the proof these male and female critics failed lamentably to establish their case.

We only insist, when we are told that Charles Dickens could not describe either a lady or a gentleman, that there are ladies and gentlemen in all ranks and classes of life, and that the inward delicacy and refinement of the latter we acknowledge as the only true criterion of the class may be found under the smock-cock of the ploughboy as well as beneath the mantle of an earl.

When a great writer, on his death-bed, with his last breath instructing his children in the secret of his success, he said, "Be natural, my children, for the writer that is natural has fulfilled all the rules of Art." And this was pre-eminently the case with Charles Dickens. He was natural; he has struck fast root in the hearts of his countrymen, for this, above all other reasons, that they are natural - natural both relatively to the writer who created them, and to the station in life in which they are supposed to live. Like the giant who revived as soon as he touched his mother earth, Charles Dickens was never so strong as when he threw himself back on the native soil of the world among which he had been born and bred, and which, faults, and foibles he could portray with a truth and vigour denied to any other man. That he was eminently successful may be proved by his works. He is gone, indeed, but they remain behind and will long speak for him. Every day will only add to the universal feeling that he wrote not for this age alone, but for all time, and that this generation, in losing sight of him, will surely look upon his life again.

That he was eminently truthful, trustworthy, and self-denying can be gained by none. But of the man himself, apart from the writer, it is as yet too soon to speak. We live too close to the man to be able to discriminate his excellence, which will live for ever, from his faults, which will be forgotten ere the year is out. In this the world is very charitable. It has no memory for small errors, and while we are and period, while the pearl which they encrust and perhaps conceal grows day by day more truly orient, and increases with value as generation after generation vanishes away.

Faith in democracy

From Dr Roman Znajek
Sir, Peter Kellner (feature, June 5) is unaware that the British Constitution is based on representative democracy. It is not a presidential system in which the electorate votes directly for a leader or a party. (If it was, why on earth do we bother with constituencies and members of Parliament?) There is therefore no constitutional objection to a coalition government supported by a majority of the elected representatives of the people.

Is Peter Kellner's constitutional ignorance due to a desperate desire to justify the imposition of a socialist government backed by only 36 per cent (say) of the votes cast? As Kellner himself writes, "it is possible to deduce what a majority of voters do not want". Then why force it upon them? Yours etc, R. L. ZNAJEK, King's College, Cambridge, June 6.

A Rolls in Moscow

From Sir Thomas Armstrong
Sir, Some years ago in a Moscow museum I saw a fine old English bicycle, a BSA or Raleigh of vintage character - a veritable Rolls-Royce among bicycles. It was said to have been presented to Tolstoy by the mails, or by a group of English admirers. Was it in Tolstoy's house, and is it still there? Yours sincerely, THOMAS ARMSTRONG, Newton Blossomford, Bedford, June 7.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, June 3. Dealings End, June 14. Contango Day, June 17. Settlement Day, June 24. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +21 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., Company, Year ago or less. Lists various companies like British Airways, British Telecom, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total.

1985 High Low Stock Price table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Chg, % P, E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

UNBATED table with columns: Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

INDEX LINKED table with columns: Stock, Price, Chg, % P, E.

1985 High Low Company Price table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

BREWERIES table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

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BUILDING AND ROADS table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

FOODS table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

INDUSTRIALS E-K table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

INDUSTRIALS L-R table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

INDUSTRIALS S-Z table with columns: Company, Price, Chg, % P, E.

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July 100 150

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Debenhams - clear case for a Tebbit reference

Roland (Tiny) Rowland is, of course, obsessed with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which more than once investigated Lorrho's attempts to ambush House of Fraser but was not asked to examine the bid for the company...

The issue which Hong Kong authorities must now address with some urgency is the need for reform and tightening of banking supervision. Eagerness to encourage Hong Kong's development as an international financial centre free of tiresome regulations may explain why the authorities have not acted before...

The potential buying power of a group that included not only Burtons and Debenhams but subsequently Habitat and Mothercare must surely keep merchandise suppliers awake at nights. If Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, is anxious to see a reasonable balance maintained between a sorely-pressed manufacturing sector and a clutch of the biggest retailers in the land, then he should have no hesitation in referring Burton's offer...

Without a central bank to act as lender of last resort at times of crisis and an insurance scheme to protect depositors, Hong Kong's banking system is particularly vulnerable to contagion if one part is infected. On occasions the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank acts as a central bank providing financial support to institutions in trouble but the lack of a deposit insurance scheme surely needs rectifying...

That might not please the dealers who piled into Debenhams shares both before and after Ralph Halpern formally made Burton's bid public. Debenhams closed last night at 399p, which is 56p above Burton's opening offer: a reference would deflate speculative interest and the price. But even if the auction of Debenhams was suspended for six months, and even if the MMC were to rule out Burton and Habitat Mothercare as bidders, Debenhams' days as an independent company are surely numbered.

Sudden reluctance among SE rebels

Those Stock Exchange rebels who were so vociferous in the weeks leading up to last week's momentous votes now seem to be overcome with the need to catch up on lost business time. So far, not one has volunteered to put himself at the mercy of a democratic vote. Nominations must be in by 3.30 this afternoon for candidature of the Stock Exchange Council but by yesterday evening the steering committee that coordinated opposition to the council's reform proposals has failed to produce a single candidate...

Depending always on the asking price, the group that might profit most from acquiring Debenhams is House of Fraser/Harrods. Debenhams was outsmarted by House of Fraser in the earlier takeover contest for Harrods. The logic of such a link is even stronger now. Debenhams has stores in areas, like East Anglia, where Fraser has no outlets. Putting Wolbeck Finance with Fraser/Harrods credit business would probably result in a profit of £40m in the first year. Although a major retailing group, turning over £1,200m a year, Fraser/Harrods has to be wary of being left behind in the scramble for size and high street clout.

"It is essential that the independent London firms have representation on the council," said Martin Walters of Schavieren, before excusing himself from coming forward. So the 12 London seats seem likely to be contested by just 13 people, 11 of them retiring by rotation who are offering their services again. The other candidates are from the larger stables of Scrimgeour Vickers and Cape-Cure Myers.

There are, thus, at least three reasons why Fraser has picked up 5 per cent in Debenhams. If there is to be a carve up, or an alternative "consortium" bid, it needs an admission ticket to the talks. Ironically, Fraser, now a privately-owned company, finds itself without the marketable paper that would have given it freedom of manoeuvre on its own account.

Time for reforms in Hong Kong

Overseas Trust Bank opened for business as usual yesterday in Hong Kong after last week's government bail-out; normality was returning to the colony's financial markets. On the foreign exchanges dealings resumed in forward Hong Kong dollar contracts and in typical Hong Kong style, the stock market promptly overreacted to Friday's overreaction. Having tumbled nearly 86 points in the wake of the OTB failure, the Hang Seng index bounced back more than 54 points up at 1571.87.

The rebels, having scored a narrow victory against constitution, are not falling over each other to have a say in how the situation can be saved. Yet the rescue operation cannot be delayed. This afternoon the Stock Exchange Council meets: top of the agenda how to accommodate outside institutions who are hammering on the door. Members have now said they can come in, but on what terms?

So the rescue, which will probably cost the Hong Kong taxpayer about £200 million, seems to have worked and the danger of a serious knock-on effect spreading through the banking system avoided. Four present or former officials of OTB have now been charged in connection with the bank's failure which appears to have been caused by multi-million dollar frauds.

Reuters looks on the equity market as the best thing since foreign exchange acting as a place to employ its technology and talents. Its plans for the Instinet system exceedingly ambitious, and make the prospect of a rival market at least a possibility. If London's "independent" brokers want to make sure that they have a business as well as independence, they should surely find time to stand for the council, not merely time to criticize its schemes.

Chase property team starts own firm

Chase Manhattan Bank's British property lending team is leaving the company to set up an independent financial services firm in which the British & Commonwealth Shipping Company is to be a significant shareholder and funder. British & Commonwealth is to have slightly less than 50 per cent of the company, to be called Woolgate Property Finance, and is putting up the capital for the venture.

Mr Patrick Scott will lead Woolgate Property Finance with Mr Richard Malin, Chase's present manager of London property, and another banker, Mr Rupert Clarke. Two chartered surveyors, Mr David Foord and Mr Robert Adam, will complete the team.

Surge in retail spending as inflation outlook brightens

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Inflationary pressures eased last month while spending in the shops surged to the second highest monthly total on record, according to official figures released yesterday.

The figures, which were much better than expected, support the Government's view that the rate of inflation will turn down in the second half of the year.

High mortgage rates have yet to suffice spending in the shops, as the May retail sales figures showed. There was an unexpected 1 per cent jump in the volume of sales, with all types of shops benefiting from the extra spending.

The strength of retail sales, in spite of very high mortgage rates, is explained by strong growth in real incomes for those in work, and a willingness to borrow on hire purchase to finance spending.

The easing of inflationary pressures now showing through should produce a fall in the inflation rate in the next six months, but the Treasury's 5 per cent inflation forecast for the end of the year will also require a substantial reduction in mortgage rates.

Produce price figures take several months to feed through to retail price inflation. Figures due on Friday are expected to show that the inflation rate topped 7 per cent last month.

The Retail Consortium said that the figures were very encouraging in the light of the poor May weather, and predicted continuing buoyancy in the coming months.

Recent official figures for hire purchase and other instalment credit show advances running at £1 billion a month.

Without a central bank to act as lender of last resort at times of crisis and an insurance scheme to protect depositors, Hong Kong's banking system is particularly vulnerable to contagion if one part is infected. On occasions the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank acts as a central bank providing financial support to institutions in trouble but the lack of a deposit insurance scheme surely needs rectifying...

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Hanson Trust seeks £519m

By Ian Griffiths

Hanson Trust is asking shareholders for £519 million in Britain's second biggest rights issue ever, and the biggest wholly in the private sector.



Lord Hanson: City trying to spot his target

The announcement set the City alight with speculation about potential takeover targets, with Bower Incorporated and Pilkington Brothers emerging as favourite candidates.

Lord Hanson said: "This will enable the company to take greater advantage of opportunities and will provide a strong stable platform for internal growth and from which the company will contemplate major acquisitions."

payable by July 4 with the remaining £50 falling due on September 27. An initial 50p payment on the preference shares must be made, again by July 4 although the remaining 50p must be paid by August 30.

North Sea spot oil prices fall 20 cents

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil prices on the spot markets fell by 20 cents a barrel yesterday.

At the same time, Saudi Arabia announced the third devaluation of the riyal this year in the wake of renewed speculation that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) faces an official cut in oil prices.

Traders are now quoting a price as low as \$25.45 for spot trading in North Sea Brent crude and \$25.90 for deliveries in July.

Honda denial

Honda denied a report in The Times that it plans to provide Austin Rover with engines.

Amersham rise

Amersham International is to pay a final dividend of 3.8p, making a total of 6p (5p) for the year to March 31. Pre-tax profits rose by 24 per cent to £17.1 million. Tempus, page 19

Banque Nationale de Paris is raising up to \$600 million (476 million) with a new type of 10-year floating rate note embodying credit facility features. Underwriters are committed under the deal to take the paper over a certain period.

Rental profits up

Electronic Rentals, the television and video rental company, lifted profits £4 million, from £11.2 million to £15.2 million in the year to March 31. Turnover rose from £193 million to £197 million and the dividend was unchanged at 3.2p. Tempus, page 19

Hong Kong sale

The Hongkong & Shanghai Bank the largest bank in Hong Kong, is selling its temporary headquarters in the Admiralty building for about HK\$200 million (£20 million) through Knight Frank, Kan & Baillieu, estate agents.

British Land's £25 million development with Power Securities for a shopping centre, including a possible hotel at St Stephen's Green in Dublin has been given planning permission.

No bid plan

British Syphon, responding to press speculation, denied any intention of making a renewed bid for James Halcrow, and said it was not part of its present strategy to acquire shares in Halcrow.

Nicaragua talks

Nicaragua's central bank chairman, Señor Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, and the finance minister, Señor William Hupper, will meet commercial bankers in New York next Monday to discuss rescheduling of the country's \$4.2 billion (£3.30 billion) debt. Nicaragua is hoping for a one-year extension of its repayment terms.

Selincourt 'cheeky,' says d'Abo

By Patience Wheatcroft

In its efforts to fend off the bid from Mrs Jennifer d'Abo's Stormgard, Selincourt has issued a stinging attack on the performance of Ryman's, her main trading company. The d'Abo camp is furious, and Mr David East of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant banker, says that he is considering referring the document to the Takeover Panel.

Central banks press US to cut deficit

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Bank of International Settlements has called for immediate action to reduce the United States budget deficit in order to ensure a soft landing for the dollar and an improvement in the unsustainable US trade deficit.

way prices and wages are set," suggesting, for instance, a move towards linking pay with changing profitability in individual firms.

Ryman's accounts for 1984 show a pretax profit of £39,774, but Selincourt says this figure is artificially high. By stripping out the effects of changes in accounting policies and adding in notional interest charges, the company comes to the conclusion that Ryman's would have made pretax losses of £814,164 in 1984.

Giving a warning of the financial disruption which could ensue from a rapid fall in the dollar, the BIS says in its annual report: "Preparing the way for an orderly unwinding of the US external imbalance should figure as a priority item on policy-making agendas."

The BIS points to the dangers which would arise if some large countries adopted more expansionary fiscal policies to counter a slowdown in US and says that removing structural rigidities is the best contribution European countries could make to sustaining world growth.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, and INTEREST RATES.

Dollar too high, says Bank

By Our Economics Correspondent

The dollar is between 15 and 45 per cent overvalued, Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday.

Giving evidence to the all-party Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee, Mr McMahon said that he expected the dollar to fall, and that central bankers had no plans to prevent that.

missaligned", was asked by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, to put a figure on the dollar's overvaluation. He said that it was "in the range" of 14 to 45 per cent suggested by Mr Beaumont-Dark.

UK firms to set up in Mexico

By John Lawless

Five British companies will today announce that they are setting up subsidiaries in Mexico, at a ceremony coinciding with the arrival in London of the Mexican president, Señor Miguel de la Madrid.

Trade specialists said yesterday that the bureaucratic hurdles and practical problems facing companies trying to get into the Mexican market remain "horrendous", despite recent attempts to cut red tape.

Little new business has been done since medium-term cover for priority imports was restored in December. British sales, in fact, collapsed by 48 per cent in January. That is hardly surprising, though, given the longer-term nature of the business now being negotiated.

Property & Reversionary Investments PLC Summary of Results table and bar chart showing five years of progress.

Vertical sidebar with various market indices and financial data including OIL, SEASIDE TRADERS, PRINTING, ADVERTG, PROPERTY, SHIPPING, ES AND LEATHER, TEXTILES, TOBACCOS.

WALL STREET

COMMODITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of stock prices for various companies including AMF Inc, AMR, Allied Corp, etc. Columns include company name, price, and change.

Early fall for Dow

New York (Agencies) - The stock market was down, although it had risen from its lows in the early going in active trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which lost 10.86 to 1,316.42 on Friday, was down 1.12 to 1,315.30.

Monday is stock figures day

The dollar strength was the feature of the day. The back-wardation on the standard contract widened sharply from £70 to £120, an unusual week.

Aluminum was on the defensive despite the Inter-Softs were quiet after the excitement at the end of last week.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Soyabean, Zinc High Grade, Silver Large, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies like Sterling, Dollar, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various locations like New York, London, etc.

Table of bond prices for various government and corporate bonds.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

The prospect of base rate cuts receded still further yesterday in the absence of a weekend reduction in the United States discount rate.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

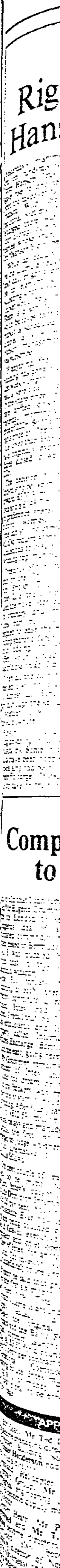
Table of investment trusts including various funds and their performance.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts including various investment vehicles.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing various unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics.



TEMPUS

Rights issue heightens Hanson bid speculation

Yesterday's mammoth £519 million fund-raising exercise from Hanson Trust naturally gave rise to another bout of spot the takeover target in the market.

While an acquisition must be the ultimate reason for the cash call, might there not also be an element of Hanson squeezing what it can out of the market while the going is good?

If anything, the company's planning has gone a little awry. Last week's impressive interim results were clearly designed to lift the share price.

The decision to split the fund-raising between a straightforward £370.3 million rights issue and a £148.7 million offer on preference shares will ease dilution worries.

Conscious of the impending drain on the City's cash flow from British Telecom and Abbey Life, the company has taken the novel step of issuing the ordinary and preference shares part paid.

When all the cash has been received it will not only wipe out almost all Hanson's net debt, although the key question is whether it will first be applied elsewhere.

Hanson is, of course, not saying anything about potential acquisitions. Some in the City would have been happier if the fund-raising had been linked to a specific target.

continued ability to pick a winner. The record is impressive, but the monopoly implications at home might well force Hanson to look more closely at the United States.

Amer sham International

Amer sham International has produced yet another variation on that familiar rooco theme in British business life - capital spending and product development in the big bad world of global markets.

Four years in the planning, the new products are to be unveiled this autumn, and Europe is the primary market for penetration. Not surprisingly, the group is exceptionally well placed about the investment it has made so far in the products.

A measure of Amer sham's commitment can be gleaned from the performance of the medical products division, where profits fell from about £6 million to just over £5 million.

The wisdom, or otherwise, of Amer sham's relatively unambiguous interest in one area is highlighted by good performances elsewhere. Research products' profits zoomed by £3 million to £11.7 million - this is a niche

business where Amer sham excels. Industrial products also benefited from the world output pick-up, and profits rose by 62 per cent.

Despite Amer sham's good market showing over the past 12 months, the shares were a volatile market yesterday ahead of and after the figures. At least one analyst Mr Howard Coates, of de Zoete & Sevan, suspects the group is over-committed to its new

Electronic Rentals

Electronic Rentals says it will stick with television rental. Sadly, that determination makes little common sense. Rental markets are in decline, a fact the company freely admits.

ER does have some short-term counters. Underlying profits in the British rental business rose by about 9 per cent last year, contributing to a steady 33 per cent increase to £15.2 million in group profits.

Thereafter Electronic Rentals could be looking to buy another chunk of the rental market. It is also experimenting with retail outlets and has hopes for new areas such as direct broadcasting by satellite and integrated home systems.

Is the company privately planning such a move? A p/e ratio of nine reflects wide-spread doubt. That assumes profits will reach £21 million this year, helped by loss elimination in the micro-computer and telephone systems businesses.

Shares fall as cash calls reach £5.8bn

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

The deluge of cash calls is showing signs of draining the stock market's strength. Shares retreated yet again yesterday as Hanson Trust added to the market's discomfort by asking its shareholders to stump up £519 million of new money.

Grand Metropolitan slid 8p to 285p as the stockbroker Simon & Coates has trouble disposing of 1.75 million shares at 287p. Although it is a relatively small amount of GrandMet stock, there have been plenty of sellers of the leisure group recently on fears of an escalation of the cigarette price-cutting war in the US.

Other cash raising exercises in progress include the Government's sale of its 49 per cent shareholding in Britoil; the Abbey Life Group and Christian Salvaten flotations and the Woolworth Holdings rights issue.

Mr Kenneth Inglis at Phillips & Drew, the broker, estimates that the Hanson blockbuster lifts the total of cash calls - rights issue, privatization, flo-

tations, vendor placings and USM issues - already announced this year to £5.84 billion.

For the full year he expects the cash drain to reach £9.1 billion, against £4.8 billion last year. Many stock market observers have become increasingly concerned about the seemingly insatiable desire for new cash. Although it has several times reached new peaks this year, the market has, on many recent occasions, looked groggy and strengthened thoughts that the long bull market could be coming to an end.

The FT 30 share index fell below 1,000 points - down 10.3 points at 991.3 points. The 100-strong FT-SE share index lost 11 points to dip below 1,300 points at 1,299.6 points.

Besides the Hanson cash call, worries over the continuing softening of crude oil prices and the consequent decline in hopes for an interest rate cut also combined to depress shares.

Hanson, which is expected to use its new wealth to mount a takeover bid, fell 10p to 212p. Its prospective bid victims had mixed fortunes.

The two favourites for Hanson attention are Bowater Incorporated, the American group hived off from the Bowater Corporation and Pilkington Brothers, the glass group. Bowater Inc shares were unchanged and Pilkington finished 2p lower at 288p.

Imperial Group is also thought to be under Hanson scrutiny, but its shares slipped 3p to 193p. The delay in Imperial's sale of the Howard Johnson chain - in the US

market men looking at a variety of sectors for vulnerable companies which might appeal to Lord Hanson and his team.

Among stores, Boots is favoured for a bid. Its shares rose 6p to 186p, having touched 187p. Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, is also thought to be on the Hanson list and its shares rose 7p to 505p, though few analysts can see much logic in such a purchase.

Coats Patons, the Scots textile company, rose 4p to 163p, after 165p, another of the market's Hanson hopefuls. Coats has been in favour with investors generally since March, when it revealed profits of more than £100 million for the first time.

Thorn EMI in the main representative of the electricals sector in the search for targets, and the share price was up sharply in early trade. But enthusiasm for this suggestion quickly waned and by the close Thorn shares showed a 13p loss at 434p.

Exeter Building & Construction rose 6p to a 145p peak as the company urged shareholders to reject the tender offer for 29.9 per cent from Mr Michael Kent, former head of the M P Kent building group. The Kent offer is 140p for each Exeter share. It looks as though he will have to pay more.

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Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes entries like Abbeystead 10p Ord (50p), Aida Property 25p Ord (17p), Anson Constructors 50p Ord (125p), etc.

Traded option highlights

Traded options business held up well despite the low level of trading on the main equity market.

Hanson Trust stepped into the market with 911 options, of which 571 were call contracts. Prices in the June calls were down by as much as 14p, and the September 187 and 200 calls were also 14p lower.

Investors also took an interest in the stock indices, and a total of 916 contracts changed hands in SEI. June calls fell by around 15p, while the June 1350 put option rose 13p to an offer price of 60p.

Other features were the currency option, where 917 contracts were traded, and BT, where the volume totalled 1,530.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Computerized trading here to stay via Bermuda

I am so old that I can remember when Mr Eugene Grummer first came to London to sell the strange idea of a fully automated commodity trading system based in Bermuda.

As I was puzzled by the notion that in this era of electronic wizardry 30, or even worse, 300 throaty fellows screaming at each other could possibly constitute a rational market, Intex had instant appeal. I recall that the City was less enthusiastic and Intex property called International Futures Exchange (Bermuda) - found the early going here hard.

Mr Grummer remains vice-president of Intex and last October the dream he shared with his backers was realized when the system blinked open for trading. After four years, \$16 million (£12.59 million) and several delays and management disputes, the first opportunity emerges to judge whether there is an alternative to those raucous fellows.

The next couple of years are likely to be crucial to the project. Intex's backers, who include Dominion International with 25 per cent, have needed forebearance. Even now investors are being touched by Mr David Graves, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Intex, for another \$5 million. The investors will not wait indefinitely to see a return.

It must be said that progress over the first six months or so has been slow. Total daily contract volume is around 300, roughly equally divided between the original gold contract and the Baltic Freight Index contract launched in May. At \$3.50 for a round trip (and 70 cents per contract to the International Commodities Clearing House) Intex must be losing a lot of money. To be fair, that is only to be expected at this stage.

A more serious indication of the extent to which Intex has tried to convince potential users that the system works is that, judging by the trading volume, only a handful of its 240 members can be active. The system allows for 600 members, but so far 42, eight of them in the City, have bought the trading station which gives instant on-line access to the Bermuda computers.

Mr John Money, Intex's London representative, says that the company is quite happy for members at this stage to trade in one or two lots at a time. They need to dip their toes into the water and liquidity builds up slowly until users have confidence. To that degree, it was unfortunate that Intex committed itself to starting with a gold contract long before the present bear market in gold.

Intex also suffered from delays in starting the freight futures index. After mooting the idea at an early stage in the exchange's development, Intex found that concocting such a contract was difficult. It turned to the Baltic Exchange, but the latter required some convincing that competition was a good idea. The Intex freight futures contract is identical to that offered by the Baltic International Freight Futures Exchange, and volume also tends to be similar.

But Mr Graves is pinning his hopes on a clutch of new Intex contracts. The first will be a stock index contract based on the composite index of 30 shares broadcast by the Financial News Network. FNN is an American cable business television station with an audience of four million weekly. The index, inevitably, is nicknamed "Fancy". Fancy is almost unknown

here, but in the United States it has a big following among private investors. Given the general enthusiasm on the other side of the Atlantic for stock index contracts it could generate the volume Intex needs. One feature of the contract is its ability to duplicate the cash and carry strategy common in physical commodities.

Another old favourite, T-Bonds, is also waiting in the wings. Intex will spice the contract by basing it on zero-coupon bonds. Both these new contracts should be trading on the system before the end of the year.

But why should anyone use Intex when similar contracts are traded on established and perhaps more accessible exchanges? The question is particularly pertinent when one remembers that the whole elaborate computer arrangement has not really been fired in anger. Will it stand up to heavy volumes in fast moving markets?

One can only say that on a brief demonstration the system is very fast and effective. It claims to be able to handle 70,000 trades an hour with the combined advantages of a price/time queueing system. That means that the customer obtains in complete confidence the price he wants followed by a hard copy printout anywhere in the world within three seconds.

Volume is not big enough to justify Intex trading round the clock - in London gold is open from 12.30 to 20.00 GMT and freight futures from 12.45 to 20.15. But 24-hour trading is one of the system's greatest advantages, and I suspect that the time is close for screens to be active day and night.

Michael Prest

APPOINTMENTS

UBM Glass: Mr Ted Harry has become managing director. Portman Building Society: Mr Stuart Henderson has been appointed director.

Westland Helicopter and Hovercraft Group: Mr Don Berrington, engineering director, has become deputy managing director.

Needler Heath: Mr P. A. Greenwood and Mr T. W. Parkes become directors. Mr Greenwood also becomes executive director of Needler Heath (Overseas) and Needler Heath (Marine). Mr P. Lusher associate director of both those companies, and Mr P. Golding as associate director of Needler Heath (Overseas). With the formation of Needler Heath

Kingsnorth (Aviation), Mr G. K. Bradshaw has been made chairman, Mr A. C. Guisane has been appointed an associate director.

Industry & Commerce: Mr F. C. Graves has been elected president and Mr R. B. Way and Mr H. J. Musgrove have been elected vice-presidents.

Forward Trust Group: Mr D. M. W. Farley and Mr A. H. Greig have been made directors. Mer A. Johnston Brown has been appointed company secretary.

Institute of Explosives Engineers: Mr Frederick Odgen, contracts director of L. E. Jones (Demolition), has been elected president.

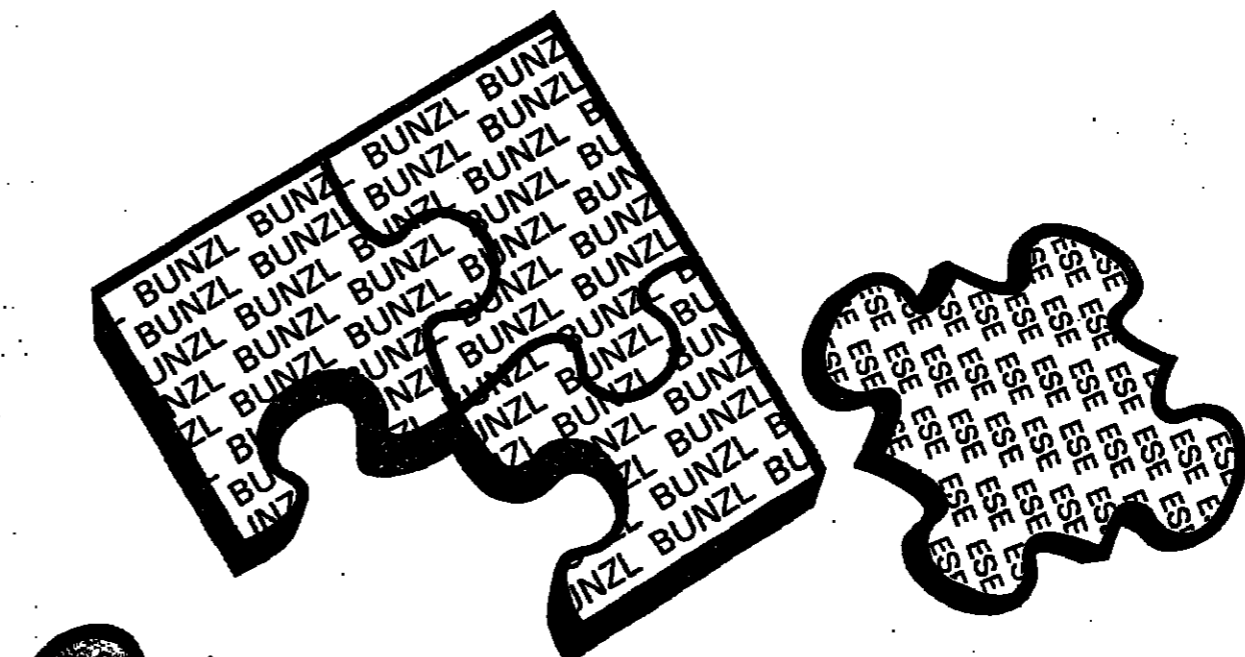
Base Lending Rates

Table listing base lending rates for various banks: ARN Bank (12 3/4%), Adam & Company (12 3/4%), Barclays (12 3/4%), BCI (12 3/4%), Citibank Savings (11 3/4%), Consolidated Trd (12 3/4%), Continental Trust (12 3/4%), Co-operative Bank (12 3/4%), C. Hoare & Co (12 3/4%), Lloyds Bank (12 3/4%), Midland Bank (12 3/4%), Nat Westminster (12 3/4%), NBS (12 3/4%), Williams & Glyn's (12 3/4%), Citibank NA (12 3/4%).

A final message to BRAMMER shareholders

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BE SURE OF 450p* per SHARE

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There's only one fit

* The value of Bunzl's Increased Offer for Brammer



An exciting group with an outstanding future

The Directors of Bunzl plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. The Directors of Bunzl plc accept responsibility accordingly.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Building societies poised for unsecured lending drive

The future shape of the building society industry under the guiding hand of the Government became clearer last week. The speech by Mr Ian Stewart, the Treasury Economic Secretary, to the Building Societies Association conference was hardly a revolutionary progression from the proposals in last year's green paper. It did show, however, that many criticisms of the green paper have been taken aboard by the Government.

Mr Stewart left the impression that the new legislation would do more to protect the status quo within the industry than the original green paper proposals. On the other hand, growing competition between the societies and the high street banks will be encouraged.

The green paper never set out to turn the world upside-down for building societies. Any new activities they undertook were to be introduced in a gradual and orderly manner and would remain a relatively tiny proportion of their traditional home loan business. Mr Stewart endorsed that approach, reiterating that at least 90 per cent of a society's business must be in ordinary mortgage lending.

Of the remaining 10 per cent, only half may be used on unsecured lending, the most direct overlap with high street banking services.

Although a small proportion, the amount of money made available to unsecured borrowers if all the eligible societies went into this type of business would still be huge. On present figures they would be able to lend about £4 billion immediately, compared with similar bank lending about £9 billion.

A large number of societies would plunge into unsecured lending with enthusiasm. It is common knowledge that some proportion of building society lending is already used for consumer spending on items such as cars and holidays instead of house purchase. The societies are happy to turn a blind eye to this. Several have even started advertising the availability of consumer loans as long as they are secured against the borrowers' property.



Ian Stewart endorsing gradual approach

to 40 per cent of the first year's premium.

While any society, however small, can move into these services the ability to make unsecured loans, own land and operate abroad is confined to those with commercial assets - their mortgage loans - above £100 million. This distinction between large and small societies led to fears among the smaller ones that they would become redundant and be swallowed by the big ones soon after the new legislation came in.

Indeed, the competitive pressures produced by wider building society powers led many societies to believe that big was beautiful. While small societies have been merging with large ones for years a relatively new phenomenon has appeared: the merger of two societies of roughly equal size to make a bigger and, supposedly, more competitive one.

One of the most interesting changes from the green paper was the dropping of several proposals to make mergers easier. Indeed, Mr Stewart made the whole process, more difficult. Instead of reducing the number of members needed to be in favour of a merger, as the green paper suggested, Mr Stewart kept the figure at 75 per cent.

He kept in a green paper requirement for 50 per cent of borrowers to be in favour.

Borrowers had not had a say before. And he abandoned the suggestion that societies could independently canvass members of a target society, promising them a special bonus if they agreed to a merger which their own board had rejected.

Recent experience has shown that mergers, particularly between societies of similar size, are difficult. Several planned mergers have run into snags this year. Normally the problem is not the disagreement of the members, but that may be changing.

The planned marriage between the Leeds Permanent and the Leeds & Holbeck was called off. Although the Leeds & Holbeck had an 83 per cent majority of members in favour the first time round, the management was not confident that it would get the necessary 75 per cent a second time and called a halt.

Moreover, borrowers are likely to have a greater interest in the development of their society than traditionally apathetic investors. They have a longer term commitment and, if a merger could lead to higher mortgage rates, borrowers can be expected to shout more loudly than investors.

For the same reason, the likelihood that big societies would choose to convert themselves into ordinary companies looks more remote than it did at the time of the green paper. Agreement from investors and borrowers would be necessary, the same as if a society was being taken over by an outside organization like a bank.

As the large societies move forward to compete with the banks on their own ground, the position of the small societies looks sadder than it did a few months ago. Mr Stewart made a passing remark about the possibility of simplifying merger procedures, but the likelihood of the present 190 societies shrinking to a mere 10, as some were predicting last year, is extremely remote.

Richard Thomson

Benefit 'gross income' excludes expenses

Chief Adjudication Officer v Hogg Before Lord Justice Griffiths, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd (Judgment delivered May 23)

The gross amount of earnings for the purpose of awarding family income supplement was to be arrived at before deduction of tax but after deduction of the expenses which were allowable in arriving at the taxable sum.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Chief Adjudication Officer from a decision of a social security commissioner, who had allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mr William R. Hogg, of Housletts Garage, Leeds, from a decision of the Leeds Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunal.

Mr John Laws for the Chief Adjudication Officer; Mr Mark Lloyd QC for the claimant.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the claimant was the vicar of a parish in Yorkshire. He lived in a rent-free parsonage house provided for him, which he had to maintain, heat and light.

The case concerned the proper method to be employed in ascertaining his family's entitlement to any tax payable in respect of a family income supplement, pursuant to a claim made by him on November 21, 1983.

Section 1 (2) of the Family Income Supplement Act 1970 provided: "A benefit, to be known as a family income supplement shall be paid (on claim duly made therefor) for any family in Great Britain if the weekly amount of its resources, so far as taken into account for the purposes of this Act, falls short of the prescribed amount."

The formula for ascertaining the prescribed amount for any family was to be found in section 2 of the Act. It provided that the prescribed amount was to be the aggregate of the normal gross income of its members, excluding, except where regulations otherwise provide, the income of any child.

Section 4 (1) of the Act provided: "The resources of a family taken into account for the purposes of this Act shall be the aggregate of the normal gross income of its members, excluding, except where regulations otherwise provide, the income of any child."

Section 4 (2), so far as material, provided: "(a) for making deductions in ascertaining the amount of any income..."

The general rule laid down by regulation 2 (2) of the Family Income Supplement (General) Regulations (SI 1980 No 1437) was that the weekly amount of the normal gross income from earnings

was to be calculated or estimated (a) in the case of a person who was paid weekly, by reference to the average of his earnings over the five pay-weeks immediately preceding the date on which his claim was made, and (b) in the case of a person who was paid monthly, by reference to the average of his earnings over the two pay-months immediately preceding that date.

Regulation 2 (3) provided: "In so far as a person's earnings from any gainful occupation comprise salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period, the gross amount thereof shall be taken into account and in any gainful occupation do not comprise salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period, the net proceeds from that occupation shall be taken into account."

In each of the two preceding months the claimant received from the Church Commissioners a stipend comprising "taxable payments" of £425.59 and "non-taxable payments" of £103.59. He actually received in each of those two months, after deduction of tax and national insurance contributions, a net total sum of £496.99.

In his letter which accompanied his claim he said that the non-taxable payment was "an allowance for heating, lighting, and garden maintenance of the parsonage which is also my place of work".

He said that at the end of each financial year he also received the same sum as such travel, telephone, secretarial assistance, uniform, postage, and so on, wholly and necessarily incurred in the performance of his duties.

During the fiscal year 1982/83 the sum of £496.99 (representing his salary plus his wife's secretarial assistance) had amounted to £1,229 (an average of £102.42 a month). He submitted that for the purpose of applying for family income supplement his monthly salary should be treated as being £425.59 less 1/2 of £1,229, that is £232.17.

The adjudication officer rejected the claimant's submission. He calculated on the gross "taxable payment" of £425.59 a month received in each of the two relevant months.

She assessed the claimant's normal weekly gross earnings as £98.21 and added £7.96 representing the weekly value of one third of the monthly "non-taxable payment" of £103.59. She regarded that one third as representing part of the claimant's private expenses.

As the total of £106.17, thus calculated as representing the weekly amount of the family's "normal gross income" was less than the prescribed amount of £104.50, she decided that family income supplement was not payable.

The refusal of the officer to award the supplement was confirmed on appeal by the Social Security Commissioner. The claimant then appealed to the Social Security Commissioner.

The present appeal was concerned with the "taxable payments" of £425.59. Since those consisted of earnings from a gainful occupation, it was common ground that they had to be dealt with in accordance with regulation 2 (3).

That regulation divided the ingredients of a person's earnings into two quite separate and distinct categories, namely those comprising salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period ("category A") and those not comprising salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period ("category B").

The source of his monthly "taxable payments" of £425.59 had never been investigated in a previous appeal. It had been assumed and accepted that those payments constituted "salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period" (category A earnings), falling within the first limb of regulation 2 (3).

The principal contest before the commissioner concerned the question whether the expression "the gross amount thereof" in the first limb of regulation 2 (3) meant (i) as contended by the chief adjudication officer, the full amount of each month's "taxable payment" of £425.59 received by the claimant or (ii) as contended by the claimant, the amount of such monthly payment after deduction of the expenses wholly and necessarily incurred in the performance of his duties.

Mr Laws had pointed out, correctly, that it was the composite phrase "the gross amount thereof", rather than the single word "gross", which ultimately fell to be interpreted and applied.

It was therefore necessary to identify the subject matter of which the "gross amount" fell to be taken into account.

Mr Laws submitted that that subject matter was the relevant "salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period". His Lordship took the contrary view. "It is the composite phrase 'the gross amount thereof' in the first limb of regulation 2 (3) related grammatically more easily to the phrase 'a person's earnings' than to 'salary, wages or fees'."

Therefore the phrase "the gross amount thereof" was to be read as meaning "the gross amount of such person's earnings".

The next problem presented by that phrase concerned the force to be attributed to the word "gross".

The first limb of regulation 2 (3) was concerned with earnings by way of "salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period". Many, perhaps most persons, who received earnings of that nature would receive the payments in question subject to deduction of tax at source.

A primary purpose of the use of the phrase "the gross amount thereof" must have been to ensure that any tax deducted on the payment of a person's category A

earnings should be notionally added back to the payments in question, for the purpose of determining his family's entitlement (if any) to family income supplement.

It was inconceivable that such entitlement should depend on whether or not he happened to receive his regular pay net of tax under the PAYE system.

The phrase "gross amount" in relation to any payment was frequently used to refer to the sum which, after deduction of income tax, was equal to the sum actually paid; see, for example, paragraph 16, Part III, Schedule 10 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

There was therefore no prima facie difficulty in attributing a similar sense to the phrase "gross amount" in the context of regulation 2 (3) and that, his Lordship thought, was the sense which it bore.

It remained to consider the meaning of the word "earnings" in regulation 2 (3). Did it mean simply the person's actual receipts, or did it mean such receipts after payment of the expenses wholly and necessarily incurred in the course of winning them?

Although the word "earnings" might quite often refer simply to receipts, it was well capable of bearing either of the two meanings just mentioned, according to the particular context.

For example, a barrister was asked what were his earnings at the bar, he might well reply in the context of those two meanings of the word "earnings" that he meant the net sum of his receipts after the payment of the expenses of the profession.

The court was entitled to pay regard to the statutory purpose of the formula for ascertaining the amount of a person's "earnings" from a gainful occupation. The regulation was concerned to assist in ascertaining those resources of his family which were to be taken into account for the purpose of the legislation relating to family income supplements.

If category A earnings, such as Mr Hogg's, were taken to mean his expenditure of £103.59 a month in order to receive a pay packet of £425.59 a month, it seemed inherently unlikely that the legislature would have intended his normal gross income to be calculated as the full sum of £425.59; the £103.59 simply did not form part of the resources available to him or his family.

His Lordship came to the same conclusion as the commissioner, namely that the phrase "the gross amount thereof" meant before the deduction of tax but after deduction of the expenses that were allowable in arriving at the taxable sum.

Lord Justice Lloyd agreed and Lord Justice Griffiths delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: DHSS Solicitor, Mr Stephen R. Jones, Leeds.

Calculating striker's income for benefit

Low and Another v The Adjudication Officer Before Lord Justice Griffiths, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd (Judgment delivered May 23)

For the purpose of determining his family's entitlement to family income supplement, the normal gross income of a miner who was on strike was to be calculated on a period when he had been working normally.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by Mr and Mrs Low, of Seaton, Blakeney, Norfolk, on appeal from the reversal by the social security commissioner of a decision of the adjudication officer that the appellants were not entitled to the benefit.

Mr Richard Drabble for the appellants; Mr John Laws for the adjudication officer.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS said that Mr Low was employed as a blacksmith by the National Coal Board. Before March 1984 his income was too large to entitle his family to family income supplement.

However, in March 1984 the miners strike began. Mr Low went on strike that month and while on strike he received no wages.

On March 28, 1984, Mr and Mrs Low applied for family income supplement on behalf of themselves and their two children. At that time Mrs Low was earning £51.20 a week as a maker. The only other income of the family was £13 a week child benefit.

By section (2) of the Family Income Supplement Act 1970, a family income supplement was to be paid (on claim duly made therefor) for any family in Great Britain if the weekly amount of its resources, so far as taken into account for the purpose of this Act, falls short of the prescribed amount.

As Mr Low was not engaged in remunerative full-time work within that definition at the time they made the claim, it was only Mrs Low's employment that qualified his family to claim benefit.

The prescribed amount calculated in accordance with the Act and Regulations was at the date of the claim £95 a week. If Mr and Mrs Low were to be treated as being in accordance with the Act and the

supplement on behalf of themselves and their two children. At that time Mrs Low was earning £51.20 a week as a maker. The only other income of the family was £13 a week child benefit.

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Regulations fell below that figure, they were entitled to receive half the difference as family income supplement, and to continue to receive it for 52 weeks despite any subsequent change in their circumstances.

Section 4 (1) of the Act provided: "The resources of a family taken into account for the purposes of this Act shall be the aggregate of the normal gross income of its members, excluding, except where regulations otherwise provide, the income of any child."

The adjudication officer took the view that Mr Low's normal gross income was not what he received when he was on strike which was nothing and so it was not appropriate to apply the five-week yardstick (specified by regulation 2 (2)) immediately preceding the claim.

He thought that the normal gross income should be calculated with reference to a period when Mr Low was working normally hours.

He therefore calculated the weekly amount of Mr Low's wages by taking an average of the last five weeks immediately preceding the overtime ban in October 1983, which produced the figure £248.55, which was the payment of any family income supplement.

Mr and Mrs Low appealed to the social security appeal tribunal who by a majority allowed their appeal, holding that the relevant period for calculating Mr Low's wages was the

five-week period immediately preceding the claim and, as he had earned nothing in that period, his normal gross income was nil.

The commissioners held that the majority had misdirected themselves in law in regarding the time factor as the sole criterion and that on the facts Mr Low's "normal gross income" under his contract of service with the National Coal Board could not possibly be said to be nil at the date of his claim.

There was no reason why "normal gross income" under the Act and Regulations should bear other than its ordinary everyday meaning of "usual" as opposed to "unusual". Even in England a strike was still an unusual situation and if a man on strike was asked what he normally earned he would not answer by saying nothing; he would say he normally earned so much but unfortunately he was not earning anything at the moment because he was on strike.

His Lordship agreed with the commissioners that a man on strike was not earning his "normal gross income" within the meaning of the Act and therefore his average weekly wage would not be calculated at the period when he was on strike.

Lord Justice Slade delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen; DHSS Solicitor.

Freights lien creates equitable charge

In re Welsh Irish Ferries Ltd Before Mr Justice Nourse (Judgment delivered May 23)

A shipowner's lien on sub-freights created an equitable charge which was registrable under section 95 of the Companies Act 1948. Mr Justice Nourse held that the lien was registrable under section 95 of the Companies Act 1948 as a charge on book debts.

Mr David Donaldson, QC, for the receiver; Mr QC for the receiver; Mr Dominic Kendrick for the shipowners; Mr David Oliver for Lloyds Bank.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question was whether, in a case where the charterer was a company, a shipowner's contractual lien on sub-freights was registrable under section 95 of the Companies Act 1948 as a charge on book debts of the company.

On March 23, 1983, Welsh Irish Ferries Ltd, which operated a ferry service between England and Wales, was liquidated. The company was also in liquidation, but the liquidator took no part.

Mr David Donaldson, QC, for the receiver; Mr QC for the receiver; Mr Dominic Kendrick for the shipowners; Mr David Oliver for Lloyds Bank.

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Mr David Donaldson, QC, for the receiver; Mr QC for the receiver; Mr Dominic Kendrick for the shipowners; Mr David Oliver for Lloyds Bank.

On June 30, 1983, only two semi-monthly payments of hire had been made, the owners terminating the charter, and notified all known shippers to pay all outstanding sub-freights. On July 5, 1983, Lloyds Bank, appointed receivers under its debenture, and on November 21, 1983, the company was ordered to be compulsorily wound up, and a liquidator was appointed.

The present position was that the receivers had collected substantial sums from shippers in respect of freight, and now sought the court's directions under section 365(1) of the 1948 Act as to whether they should pay them to the owners, on the footing that their lien took priority over the bank's charge, or whether they should pay them to the bank, on the footing that it did not.

The contest was between the owners and the bank, the liquidator being charged to distribute the sums that the sub-freights were book debts of the company, which became subject to the bank's debenture, and that the question of priority depended on whether the lien was registrable under section 95.

Having referred to *Taggart, Beaton & Co v Porter, Fisher & Sons* (1903) 1 KB 391, *Molins Rederi AG v Ellerman's Wilson Line Ltd* (1927) 1 KB 710, his Lordship concluded that the lien was clearly not, as a shipowner's lien on cargoes was, a possessory lien, nor could it be described as an equitable lien, which subsists by operation of law, not out of an express contract, whereas the lien on sub-freights was the creature of an express contract.

The lien's effect was to give the shipowner a limited right to require payment from the shipper of money which was owed by the shipper to the charterer. It was not, as contended by the shipowner, an equitable assignment of a chose in action as security created an equitable charge.

But that assignment could only be by way of security, and not an outright assignment. It was not, as contended by the shipowner, an equitable assignment of a chose in action as security created an equitable charge.

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on the chose; see *In re Kent & Sussex Saw Mills Ltd* (1947) Ch 177. Accordingly it was clear that the lien created an equitable charge on the sub-freights.

His Lordship considered the submission of Mr Millett to the contrary, but after referring to *The Lancaster* (1980) 2 Lloyd's Rep 497, *The Panjab Friendship* (1971) 1 Lloyd's Rep 348, *The Nanfri* (1979) AC 157, *Care Shipping Corporation v Latin American Shipping Corporation* (1983) 1 QB 1035 and *In re Bond Worth Ltd* (1980) Ch 228, he rejected it.

The second question as to whether the lien fell within section 95, had caused his Lordship considerable concern, because if it did it was clearly something that would come as a shock to those dealing with matters of this kind. Evidence showed that it had never been the practice to register a shipowner's lien on sub-freights under section 95.

Mr Millett made a number of important and persuasive points in support of his contention that the lien was registrable under section 95 of the Companies Act 1948. His Lordship regretted that that test was not satisfied in the present case, and therefore held the lien did not fall within section 95, so that the bank was entitled to shipbrokers and other and not by lawyers. In short, the lien was not registrable under section 95, and an appropriate declaration would be made.

Solicitors: Phillips & Buck; Cardiff; Sinclair, Roche & Temperley; Richards Butler & Co.

Mr Oliver, dealing briefly with those arguments, said that there was no warrant for cutting down the effect of the entirely general words which Parliament had used.

The Companies Court, no less than the Commercial Court, was most reluctant to disturb settled commercial practices, especially when it might lead to great practical difficulties for no useful purpose. But the court could only act on general words in an Act of Parliament if it was clear that they were intended not to apply to the particular case.

His Lordship regretted that that test was not satisfied in the present case, and therefore held the lien did not fall within section 95, so that the bank was entitled to shipbrokers and other and not by lawyers. In short, the lien was not registrable under section 95, and an appropriate declaration would be made.

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Low and Another v The Adjudication Officer: For the purpose of determining his family's entitlement to family income supplement, the normal gross income of a miner who was on strike was to be calculated on a period when he had been working normally.

Calculating striker's income for benefit: Regulations fell below that figure, they were entitled to receive half the difference as family income supplement, and to continue to receive it for 52 weeks despite any subsequent change in their circumstances.

DAVIES & NEWMAN HOLDINGS PLC SUMMARY OF RESULTS 1984 1983

Freights lien creates equitable charge: On June 30, 1983, only two semi-monthly payments of hire had been made, the owners terminating the charter, and notified all known shippers to pay all outstanding sub-freights.

Arbitrator's duty if he uses personal experience: Zermatt Holdings SA v Na-Life Upholstery Repairs Ltd

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Rudd Watts & Stone is a large New Zealand firm (30 partners), having offices in Auckland, Wellington and New Plymouth. It seeks solicitors, preferably, but not necessarily, with several years' practical experience to join its practice in Auckland or Wellington. It is expected that the positions offered will be of particular interest to New Zealanders who have been studying or practising law in the United Kingdom, and who now wish to return to New Zealand, but applications from other suitably qualified people will be welcomed.

The firm is looking in particular for those who already have experience, or wish to specialise, in the fields of company takeovers and mergers, construction and energy, merchant banking and finance, taxation, and commercial litigation.

Working conditions are first class, and there are excellent prospects for the right people.

Two partners will be in London during the week commencing Monday, July 15, 1985 and will be available to interview applicants during that week. Written applications, including a full CV, should be addressed to Box 2711 W The Times.

PERSONAL INJURY West Midlands

Due to continued expansion a Solicitor or legal executive experienced in handling personal injury claims is required. Fringe benefits include company car.

Contact Mr A. C. Lawton, Rowley's & Blewitt's, Kennedy Tower, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6JG. 021-233 1831.

Specialise within Commercial Litigation towards early partnership

My Clients had five partners in 1970. Since then their partnership has doubled in size every five years and today they have 46 partners of whom 45 specialise in international shipping, insurance and transport. Their offices are modern (well-equipped with the latest technology), the partners are young (only two are aged over 45) and the atmosphere is informal. The firm believes in independence and early partnership. Their work demands a good mind, hard work and a well developed sense of humour. The cases are detailed, demanding and intellectually satisfying. If you are about to qualify or have qualified in the last three years with a good City firm and wish to know more, telephone me, Mrs. Indira Brown, 01 222 5555, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Or if you prefer, at home between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. 01 979 3003.

Opportunity for a Lawyer

Shell International Petroleum Company Limited

Shell International Petroleum Company Limited have an opening for a lawyer to join their London-based Legal Division.

The Legal Division is involved in a wide variety of activities relating to the business, corporate and financial affairs worldwide of companies of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group which have interests in oil and natural gas, chemicals, coal, metals and shipping.

We seek a Solicitor or Barrister aged 25-28 with a good academic record and preferably at least two years' experience in professional practice. Specialist skills or experience are not essential, but a background in any of the following areas of law will be an advantage - company finance, shipping, international trade, civil contracting, employment, joint ventures, or trade practices. The ability to work constructively in multi-discipline teams of business and technical managers on major projects is essential.

Lawyers in Shell are not necessarily confined to a career in the Legal Division and those with an inclination and aptitude for business affairs may in due course be considered for managerial positions outside the legal function.

Starting salary will depend on experience, but is unlikely to be less than £16,000 p.a. In addition, benefits include London Allowance, a first class contributory pension scheme, relocation expenses if appropriate and social and sports facilities. The company will also contemplate a short service contract for 3-5 years in particular cases.

Please write or telephone for an application form to: Shell International Petroleum Company Limited, (TB), Recruitment Division (PNE/L/231), Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone: 01-934 6966 or 01-934 4115.



HONG KONG

HONG KONG SOLICITORS (WITH OFFICES IN CENTRAL AND KOWLOON) REQUIRE IMMEDIATELY:

1. Senior Company/Commercial Solicitor
At least 5 years post-qualification experience, following articles with a major city firm. Experience in public company work essential, including capital reconstruction and schemes. Additional experience in other specialist fields an advantage. Salary will be competitive and for the ideal candidate early partnership possibilities.
 2. Assistant Company/Commercial Solicitor
Suitable for a candidate with not less than 12 months post-qualification experience in company and commercial work. Some trusts and taxation work will be involved and broad experience in this field would be beneficial but is not essential. The successful candidate is likely to be based in the Kowloon office.
- Initial interviews in London.
Write with curriculum vitae to: Anthony Rose, Charles Russell & Co., Killowen House, Bayshill Rd., Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3AW.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

Professional Conduct Secretary

This post is directly responsible to the Secretary of the Institute and covers professional conduct affairs and monitors developments arising from changes in the RIBA's code of professional conduct.

The successful applicant will deal with questions about professional conduct and related practice matters from architects and members of the public.

Starting salary £12,784 on a scale rising to £15,814 p.a. Further details are available from the Personnel Officer, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Tel: 01-580 5533 ext 258.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

MEDIA LAWYER

London

Young lawyer with experience of general commercial work, to join established legal department handling a wide range of matters arising from their world-wide news & communications organisation.

(Recruitment Consultants)

01-606 9371

LITIGATION SOLICITOR

We are a small firm in Lincoln's Inn. We require an ambitious Assistant capable of working on own initiative on general litigation, which includes some crime. 2-3 years experience since qualification. Salary up to £14,000. Apply with CV to Box 0347 L The Times.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Up to £8262 p.a.

The work includes Contracts, Leases and Licensing and offers the opportunity to develop considerable conveyancing expertise and become experienced in DISO.

We can offer: Resitance, removal expenses and help with training costs for those studying.

For an application form and further details, or an informal chat, contact: The Personnel Officer, Mid Sussex District Council, "Oaklands", Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1SS. (Tel: 0444-468169 Ext. 2461).

PORTSMOUTH, admitted conveyancer, under 30, quality firm, £10,000. Accord Personnel (0930) 815006.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE, all rounder for Commercial Litigation, £11,000. Accord Personnel (0930) 815006.

PROBATE & TRUST CLERK, £10,000. Accord Personnel (0930) 815006.

WOMEN CONSULTANTS 0930 251195.

HOLMAN FENWICK & WILLAN

Shipping and Insurance Litigation

Large City firm practising in all branches of shipping and insurance law have vacancies for recently qualified solicitors as assistant to partners, one to specialise in commercial litigation arising in connection with shipping matters, the other to specialise in insurance and reinsurance litigation. Previous experience of commercial litigation desirable but not essential. Congenial offices and opportunity for foreign travel. This vacancy will be attractive to able, hard working and ambitious candidates seeking a long term career in these branches of the law.

Write with full CV to: Ref JFP/2A Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, London EC3N 3AL.

S J Berwin & Co

COMPANY LAWYERS

S J Berwin & Co wish to recruit solicitors for its rapidly expanding company department. The work, which will appeal to able, energetic solicitors with a good academic background, is demanding; it covers all national and international aspects of corporate finance activities. Positions are available both for newly qualified solicitors and for those with one or two years corporate finance experience since qualification, in a firm where career prospects and terms of employment are excellent.

Applications will be treated in strict confidence and applicants should write with full CV to:

Stanley Berwin,
S J Berwin & Co,
Capital House,
42 Weston Street,
London SE1 3QN.

PROBATE and TRUST LAWYER

Reynolds Porter Chamberlain seek an experienced and able solicitor to take charge of the day to day management of its probate and trust practice. The ideal candidate will be able to handle all aspects involved in estate planning including the drafting of wills and settlements and the administration of estates.

This is a challenging opportunity with a case load which requires competent organisational ability. The long term prospects are excellent. The ideal candidate will have the status and presence to inspire confidence in the private client side of the practice, contributing to its continuing expansion and with the ability to deal with the work confidently and speedily.

Applicants should write in the first instance to Colin Ellis, Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, Chichester House, 278-282 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HA.

REYNOLDS PORTER CHAMBERLAIN

KENT MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

TRAINEE COURT CLERKS

Applications are invited from recently qualified barristers and solicitors for appointment as trainee court clerks within the Kent Magistrates' Courts Service. Articles for solicitors may be available.

Appointments are at various places within the County and salary on appointment will be within the scales rising to £6,385 (salary award pending from 1 July) but opportunities exist for progression to substantive court clerk posts having a present maximum salary of £10,758 per annum.

The posts are superannuable and subject to the Joint Negotiating Committee's Conditions of Service for Magistrates' Courts Staff. In appropriate cases disturbance and removal expenses are payable.

Applications forms (returnable by 24 June) from the Clerk of the Kent Magistrates' Courts Committee, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XD. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 671411 ext 3344.

KING'S LYNN GROUP OF MAGISTRATES' COURTS

TRAINEE COURT CLERK

£3,204 - £7,743

This vacancy, in the office of the Clerk to the Justices, King's Lynn, offers an excellent opportunity to a young person to embark on a career in Magistrates' Courts. Law graduate applicants who are about to qualify or already hold a barrister's or solicitor's qualification will be preferred (Articles of Clerkship may be available). Applicants already holding barrister's or solicitor's academic qualifications will commence at £5,776 p.a. JNO Conditions of Service apply.

Letters of application, giving details of experience, age and qualification, together with names and addresses of two referees, should reach me not later than 17th June, 1985.

R J Haynes, Clerk to the Justices, The Courthouse, College Lane, King's Lynn, PE30 1PD.

SEARS TOOTH & CO

We require

2 SOLICITORS

with a minimum of 5 years experience - one for commercial and general litigation, and the other for conveyancing. Both should be able to work with the minimum of supervision. We are looking for persons of partnership calibre in a rapidly expanding practice. The applicants should preferably have experience with one of the larger firms. Commencing salary will be not less than £15,000 and there will be bonuses.

Please write in confidence to Mr Sears at 14 Harley Street, London, W1 - or telephone for an appointment on 01-636 1600.

COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR

Solicitor with personality, flair and ambition required to work closely with two partners who head our Commercial Department.

Those shortly qualifying will also be considered. Good salary for right applicant.

Apply with C.V. to:-

G. A. E. Melville.

TUCKER TURNER KINGSLEY WOOD & CO.
5 STONE BUILDINGS,
LINCOLN'S INN,
LONDON WC2A 3YD.

